

**Minutes:**

**Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall – Richmond VA**

**Meeting:** - February 21, 2019

**Greg Velzy, Chair– Presiding**

**Call to Order:** 12:02 PM

**Attending:** Committee members: John Heerwald, Tricia Pearsall, Greg Velzy, Leighton Powell, Ralph Hambrick, Jim Hill, Justin Doyle, Anne Wright, John Thompson. Shawna Shade – FOJRP, Mark Olinger - Director of Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond.

**Minutes** - January 17, 2018 minutes – Motion by Ralph Hambrick to approve, seconded by Jim Hill, approved unanimously.

**Current Issues:**

- **Riverfront Development Plan -Downriver Updates:** Leighton said that 180 RVA - the Viewshed Committee was now a part of the Church Hill Association. She also stated that she had heard rumor that Jillliellen Sarver mentioned to someone that Stone Brewery was bringing back the paper in May to address the Downriver sight. She suggested that she would write the letter to the Mayor when that happened. She and Greg Velzy agreed that we should not focus on the dollars spent by the City but rather focus on how pleased we were that the previous papers had been pulled and that the Falls Committee would like to be part of the discussions regarding this area. We are very concerned that the City needs to be able to buy this property back, that viewshed restrictions and easements be put in place. Leighton said she would send a draft of the letter out to Falls' members in the next few days.
- **Richmond 300 Masterplan:** Leighton stated that Richmond 300 was asking residents to serve on committees, and that she wanted to be on the committees that concern riverfront development. Anne Wright stated that she was already on the Environmental Committee. She also added that views and viewsheds need to be part of the Richmond 300 Plan incorporating the data studied by UVA and Landscape architects. The Falls committee voted to support such a request in form of a letter. Leighton said she would write.
- **JRA Letter to Mayor Stoney concerning capital funding for Riverfront Development Plan and other Riverfront efforts:** Justin Doyle stated that the letter was submitted to Mayor (and public), and there would be a presentation on March 6, 2019 when Mayor's budget is submitted.
- **Scenic James River Designation Extension:** Tricia added that the letter following the unanimous City Council vote on Parker Agelasto's resolution asking Henrico and Chesterfield to sign on to a request seeking a study by DCR to determine the shared districts' James River eligibility for Scenic River status. \*\*Letter is attached to Minutes.
- **VA Scenic Rivers Program 50th Anniversary:**
  - The next 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting will be at Lake Anna State Park March 6, 2019. Greg Velzy, John Heerwald, Ralph Hambrick and Justin Doyle will be attending as representatives of the Falls Committee.
  - Regarding the Letter of Support for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it was decided that the Falls Committee use the sign image designed for the local bridges as its logo.
  - **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1132** Offered February 18, 2019 *Commending the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program*. *Patrons--* Marshall, Adams, L.R., Austin, Carr, Edmunds, Fariss and Kory; *Senators:* Chafin, Deeds and Ruff. **PASSED.** See the resolution attached to minutes. Leighton updated us on Scenic Virginia's involvement in the process, presentation and legislative intrigue involved in getting this resolution through the General Assembly. Congratulations to Leighton and Lynn Crump for their efforts.
- **Planning Department Updates - Mark Olinger,** Director of Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond, gave us updates on issues below:
  - **March 6<sup>th</sup> Richmond VA's Capital Budget:** Mark indicated that he had been getting questions (from the Mayor's office) regarding the budget and riverfront.
  - **Missing Link:** He's seen nothing more regarding this. As soon as survey is completed, it will be brought to the public for comment and such.
  - **Vauxhall Island:** Transfer to the City should be signed and completed by February 28, 2019. As part of deal, EnRichmond has agreed to take down billboard.
  - **Downriver Development:** If \$900,000 is approved for design development of eastern Riverfront, then can move on with documents for the Missing Link project.

- **Improved Eastern Riverfront Access:** DPW is improving river access and road network at Nicholson, Main and Williamsburg Road area.
- **American Canoe Association:** The 2019 winter ACA Board of Directors meeting will take place in Richmond, VA on March 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. They are looking at sites to place the Whitewater Hall of Fame whether in downtown RVA or Asheville, NC.
- **Archimedes Screw:** Looking to stabilize and relocate this relic from the JR & K Canal. Cost would be about \$100,000.
- **James River Park MasterPlan:** Falls of the James has agreed to staff the February 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 6:00pm. Falls volunteers include Tricia Pearsall, Justin Doyle, Jim Hill, John Heerwald and Ralph Hambrick. There will be a Public Meeting March 6, 2019 at the War Memorial. The survey is still online and will be until March 15, 2019. Spread the word!!! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JamesRiverParkMasterPlan>. It was reported that at the Hickory Hill session, the need to connect the Rails-to-Trails Greenway with the river below the Richmond Lower Terminal was brought up as well as a greenway path connecting Goode's Creek to Ancarrows.
- **CRLC – Updates** – Parker Agelasto/Jane Myers not present.
- **DPU updates** – Grace LeRose was not present. DPU updates – JR & K Canal dredging - By email
  - Grace wrote: “We are dredging because the amount of sediment at the head gates is interfering with filling the canal from the River. To date we have dredged approximately 4,000 cubic yards (or 5,400 tons!) of sediment from the Canal. That’s about 30% of the estimated 14,000 cubic yards that will be removed. Project is on track (so far!) for completion by May 1<sup>st</sup> – in plenty of time for RiverRock. There are some good photos associated with this story: [https://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/dredging-of-haxall-canal-along-richmond-s-riverfront-to-be/article\\_e8b316d5-8b4c-5e23-89d8-921331e32b3b.html](https://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/dredging-of-haxall-canal-along-richmond-s-riverfront-to-be/article_e8b316d5-8b4c-5e23-89d8-921331e32b3b.html) We plan to dredge in the river above the head gates to the canal sometime this fall. Fun fact: we did an aerial survey of the canal to determine how much sediment would have to be removed – using a drone. First time using a drone – faster and cheaper!
  - I think (the JR & K Canal) was closed for a water main repair – including a bit of road that was damaged during the break. Last I heard they were just getting bids for the repair.”
- **James River Park** – Nathan asked that we look at the SUP requested by River Towers – 2200 Riverside Drive for two LED backlit sign illuminating their address. The community and the park are opposed as this is not in keeping with the wilderness nature of this area-the 22nd Street Entrance to the Park-and asked that the Falls Committee write a letter to Planning Department. Jim Hill stated that he would do so – stating our opposition to this SUP.

**New Business:** Anne Wright and Justin Doyle announced that Richmond is applying to become a Biophilic City. Both sit on that committee. “Biophilic cities are cities of abundant nature in close proximity to large numbers of urbanites. Biophilic cities value residents innate connection and access to nature through abundant opportunities to be outside and to enjoy the multisensory aspects of nature by protecting and promoting nature within the city.”

#### **Reports:**

**James River Park System** – Bryce Wilk, new Superintendent is in Australia but should be able to meet with us next meeting.

**JRA** - Coal Ash Removal approved by the General Assembly for 4 sites in Virginia. (TP – Paid for by Dominion customers and not the perpetrator or the investors). Also new slave trail proposal/project being designed by VHB to include a ship-like feature at the Manchester Docks.

**JRAC** - James River Days Brochure and Cleanup in September 2019 – 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.

**JROC** – Cleanup of Vauxhall Island project moved to later date. Cleaning up ‘camp’ below Hollywood Cemetery along Northbank Trail.

**FoJRP** - Shawna Shade has been hired as a part-time coordinator for FoJRP!

**Open Discussion:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:15 pm

Tricia Pearsall - Secretary

#### **Next Public Meeting: - March 21, 2019**

Meetings begin at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Richmond City Hall. Meetings are scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. If you are not now receiving e-mail meeting notices and wish to receive them, please provide your name and e-mail address to [velzyg@verizon.net](mailto:velzyg@verizon.net). If you would like to be removed from the list, so indicate at the above e-mail address.



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille, Council President**

*Councilwoman, Richmond East End 7th Voter District*

25 February 2019

The Honorable Tyrone Nelson, Chairman  
Henrico County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, Varina Voter District  
Henrico County, Virginia  
P.O. Box 90775  
Henrico, Virginia 23273-0775

Dear Chairman Nelson:

Thank you for your leadership and dedication. In hopes of further linking our communities and building even stronger bonds, Richmond City Council is inviting Henrico County and Chesterfield County to join Richmond by having the section of the James River within their boundaries included as part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate, and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations.

Richmond is honored to have the James River, from Williams Island east to Orleans Street, designated as a Virginia Scenic River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers System since 1984 and, before that, designated in 1972 by the Virginia General Assembly as the Historic Falls of the James State Scenic River and hopes you would consider requesting the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to study your river segment to see if it qualifies for designation so that you too can be included in this important program that helps promote and support the outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural resource that our James River provides.

The Capital Region Collaborative has also included the James River as a priority area in their work with the goal of making it the centerpiece for entertainment, recreation, and commerce for the region.

Thank you for your consideration of being included as part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. For more information regarding the program, benefits, and process, please contact Ms. Lynn M. Crump, Environment Programs Planner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, at [lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov) (email) and/or 804.786.5054 (tel).

Please also find the enclosed related Richmond City Council Resolution No. 2019-R004 supporting these efforts that we recently adopted.

Thank you again for your County's consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia I. Newbille  
Council President

Copy: The Honorable Leslie Haley, Chair, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor, Midlothian Voter District;  
Chesterfield County, Virginia; 9901 Lori Road; Chesterfield, Virginia 23832  
Richmond City Council

Ms. Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff, Richmond City Council Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ms. Candice Reid, City Clerk, Richmond City Council Office of the City Clerk

Ms. Lynn D. Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor; Richmond, Virginia 23219-2094

Enclosure: Richmond City Council Resolution No. 2019-R004



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille, Council President Councilwoman, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

25 February 2019

The Honorable Leslie Haley, Chair,  
Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, Midlothian Voter District  
Chesterfield County, Virginia  
9901 Lori Road  
Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

Dear Chair Haley:

Thank you for your leadership and dedication. In hopes of further linking our communities and building even stronger bonds, Richmond City Council is inviting Henrico County and Chesterfield County to join Richmond by having the section of the James River within their boundaries included as part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate, and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations.

Richmond is honored to have the James River, from Williams Island east to Orleans Street, designated as a Virginia Scenic River under the Virginia Scenic Rivers System since 1984 and, before that, designated in 1972 by the Virginia General Assembly as the Historic Falls of the James State Scenic River and hopes you would consider requesting the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to study your river segment to see if it qualifies for designation so that you too can be included in this important program that helps promote and support the outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural resource that our James River provides.

The Capital Region Collaborative has also included the James River as a priority area in their work with the goal of making it the centerpiece for entertainment, recreation, and commerce for the region.

Thank you for your consideration of being included as part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. For more information regarding the program, benefits, and process, please contact Ms. Lynn M. Crump, Environment Programs Planner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, at [lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:lynn.crump@dcr.virginia.gov) (email) and/or 804.786.5054 (tel).

Please also find the enclosed related Richmond City Council Resolution No. 2019-R004 supporting these efforts that we recently adopted.

Thank you again for your County's consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cynthia I. Newbille  
Council President

Copy: The Honorable Tyrone Nelson, Chairman, Henrico County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor,  
Varina Voter District, Henrico County, Virginia, P.O. Box 90775, Henrico, Virginia 23273-0775  
Ms. Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff, Richmond City Council Office of the Council Chief of Staff  
Ms. Candice Reid, City Clerk, Richmond City Council Office of the City Clerk  
Ms. Lynn D. Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2094  
Enclosure: Richmond City Council Resolution No. 2019-R004

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1132**  
Offered February 18, 2019  
*Commending the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program.*

-----  
Patrons-- Marshall, Adams, L.R., Austin, Carr, Edmunds, Fariss and Kory; Senators: Chafin, Deeds and Ruff  
-----

WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program was established in 1970 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020; and  
WHEREAS, the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program designates and helps protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural characteristics that are of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, scenic river designations result from initiatives launched by partnerships between local organizations, local governments, state agencies, and the General Assembly of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, since the advent of the program, 33 river segments totaling more than 850 river miles have been designated as state scenic rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation administers the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program, is assisted and advised by the Board of Conservation and Recreation, and receives guidance from locally appointed advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, rivers possessing outstanding scenic qualities continue to be evaluated and added to the Virginia Scenic Rivers system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program in advance of its 50th anniversary so that the Board of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, advisory committees, interested citizens, and local governments may plan for appropriate celebrations in 2020; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for the efforts of those state and local entities and individuals who have moved the program forward for the benefit of all Virginians now and in the future.



Archimedes Screw:

