

Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Board

Approved Minutes for March 13, 2003

Attendees:

Board Members:

Chairman Ralph Hambrick, Louise Burke, Catherine Harold, Lynn Newcomb, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy and Jonathan Young.

Others:

Buzz Kraft (Richmond Raft), Lyn Lanier (Friends of James River Park), Jim McCarthy (Richmond Riverfront Development), Alisia Penn (City of Richmond), Dinesh Tiwari (City of Richmond), Bill Trout (VA. Canal Society) and R. B. Young (Emeritus Board Member).

Chairman Hambrick called the meeting to order and initiated a review of the minutes from the previous month's meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously subsequent the adoption of an amendment regarding canal artifact permanent storage.

Mr. Jim McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond Riverfront Development Corporation briefed the Board on the status of the riverfront. Among the topics that McCarthy informed the Board of included the new George Washington display, a potential office tower to the immediate south of the turning basin, the status of Dominion's development along the river, Downtown Presents decision to change its name to City Celebrations, \$350,000 of implemented improvements to Brown's Island, the acquisition of a \$125,000 grant for a new Brown's Island pathway, new exhibits and the relocation of the Newport Cross, planned renovations to the Brown's Island river walkway, the status of the \$82,000,000 Riverside Village development and the anticipated initiation of demolition within the next few weeks of the old Brown's Island power plant.

In addition, McCarthy replied to an inquiry by R. B. Young regarding boat trips down the canal originating at Maymont. McCarthy advised Young that new cost estimates are anticipated within a few weeks.

Mr. Dinesh Tiwari, Director of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, reported to the board on the tree-cutting incident on the south of the James that involved a local homeowner clear-cutting a swath of land on the property of Norfolk Southern and the City of Richmond. Tiwari informed the Board that whereas the Richmond Times Dispatch reported that only 20 trees had been illegally cut in Park property, the accurate number was closer to 60. Tiwari encouraged the Board to draft a letter regarding the

appropriate stewardship of natural resources along the river and forward it to Norfolk Southern.

Mr. John Pearsall informed Tiwari that city engineers are contemplating the use of an asphalt and gravel mixture along riverside drive and Pearsall encouraged Tiwari to oppose the said strategy.

The Board engaged in discussions regarding Tiwari's request and a letter that Hambrick had drafted. The Board decided on sending the Hambrick letter to the City Manager. In addition, the Board elected to adopt Tiwari's recommendation and send a letter to Norfolk Southern communicating the Board's concerns.

Hambrick initiated discussion regarding the new statewide scenic river board and solicited recommendations for nominations to the board. The Board voted unanimously to nominate Hambrick. In addition, Louise Burke recommended the nomination of Vice Chair Sue Cecil and Bob Hicks.

The Board adjourned at 2:05.