

## Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Approved Minutes for October 9, 2003

### Attendees:

#### Committee Members:

Chairman Ralph Hambrick, Vice Chairman Sue Cecil, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy and Jonathan Young.

#### Others:

Don Charles (Historic Richmond Foundation), Lynn Crump (Department of Conservation and Recreation), Gary DuVal (DPU), Lyn Lanier (Friends of James River Parks), Ralph White (James River Parks) and R. B. Young (Emeritus Board Member).

The Committee convened at the Historic Pump House in lieu of its regularly scheduled location at City Hall. The meeting began with a tour of the grounds provided by Ralph White. White communicated the necessity of removing trees that have grown in the canal bed and along the walls. However, White conveyed recognition of the problem that could arise by removing trees, principally the removal of foliage that currently conceals the railroad tracks. White and Lyn Lanier advised the Committee of a problem regarding rushing water and the destabilization of the area where the Lock keeper's house was once located. This site could be an ideal location for canal boat patrons to disembark. White addressed a couple questions regarding safety along the canals and the liability issues that confront any prospect project. Further, White revealed the deterioration of the "Upper Arch".

The Committee's tour proceeded by reviewing the interior of the Pump House. Don Charles addressed a couple of questions regarding the anticipated use pattern for the Pump House. Charles advised the Committee of the terms of agreement with the City including the Historic Richmond Foundation's agreement to provide a master plan concerning the appropriate use pattern. Charles anticipated a report including cost estimates would be concluded by November 1. Subsequent the report, a capital fund raising campaign will be initiated.

Lyn Lanier communicated the urgency of addressing the deteriorating roof and recommended hiring a professional to examine the roof. Various fund raising activities were discussed as was various means of equipping the Pump House with water and electricity.

White announced that the Friends of the Pump House is organizing an open house on October 26 between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. In addition, a group of University of Richmond students will tour the Pump House and Three Mile Park on October 16.

Further business included White's suggestion that the Committee address the lack of signs providing directions to the River and Park. Sue Cecil volunteered to contact VDOT and DPW. In addition, Ralph Hambrick encouraged the Committee to begin making plans for special activities along the Falls of the James to coincide with the 2007 Celebration of Jamestown.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15.

**Signs to James River Park: Suggested Placements**  
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**Powhite Parkway at Forest Hill exit**

Huguenot Flatwater  
Pony Pasture Rapids  
Reedy Creek Canoe access

**Downtown Expressway at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Exit**

Brown's Island  
Belle Isle  
Civil War Center

**Downtown Expressway at the Boulevard**

Brown's Island  
Belle Isle  
Civil War Center

**Lee Bridge at Riverside Drive (add to existing sign)**

James River Park Headquarters

**Lee Bridge – both ends**

Falls of the James, a State Scenic River

**14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge**

Falls of the James, a State Scenic River

**Huguenot Bridge**

Falls of the James, a State Scenic River