

## **Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee**

Draft minutes for January 12, 2006

Committee Members:

John Bryan, Sue Cecil, Ralph Hambrick, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy

Others:

Eugenia Anderson-Ellis (Scenic Virginia) Lynn Crump (DCR), Christine Fix (DPU), William Jabjiniak, Director, (Department of Economic Development) Lyn Lanier (Friends of the Pump House) Lorky Markham (?), Leighton Powell (Scenic Virginia) Ralph White (James River Parks)

### **Minutes for October 13, 2005:**

Dr. Hambrick opened the meeting at 12 noon. Visitors were introduced and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **Economic Development Related to the James River:**

Dr. Hambrick then introduced Mr. William Jabjiniak the new Director of the City Department of Economic Development who gave the Committee an update of proposed downtown development. Among topics covered were: proposed baseball diamond on the Fulton Gas Works property, the Rockets Landing Proposal and the construction of a marina on the Intermediate Terminal property. He also gave updates on the plans for the Capital Hiking Trail to Great Shiplock Park. He stressed the importance of the James River in any development plan for downtown Richmond and said that the river is what attracts new residents to the downtown area.

### **Proposed Conservation Easement for James River Park**

Mr. Pearsall gave committee members a copy of the deed between the Historic James Greenbelt Corporation and the City of Richmond. This document outlines very clearly how the donated land can be used. He suggested it would be useful for this committee to use it as a guide for developing the conservation easement on the James River Park. A citizens meeting on the easement will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hambrick said that there will be a preliminary meeting with the Law Dept. at 6 P.M. on January 24<sup>th</sup> that he will attend. It was suggested that he take some of the wording from the Greenbelt document and also look into the agreement that Chesterfield County has on the Brown and Williamson property.

### **Proposal for Night-time Use for James River Park**

Greg Velzy distributed and the committee discussed a draft proposal for night-time use of the park. Ralph White said that any permits to use the park at night

should be issued by the Department of Recreation and Parks and that the rules should be somewhat flexible about appropriate use.

#### **Downtown Takeout Update**

Mr. Velzy reported that the 14<sup>th</sup> Street takeout was open for use on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He distributed copies of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* story on its dedication and also a picture of the full parking lot taken on New Year's Day and a copy of the article about Nathan Burrell, the Park staff member whose hard work and ability to get hardworking volunteers made the completion of the project possible.

#### **State Scenic River Board Update**

Ms. Crump reported that the State Scenic River Board meets twice year and advises the Governor and the Department of Conservation and Recreation on river needs, signage and possible designations for new rivers. She passed out a layout of the new Scenic River brochure and a large map of "John Smith's Adventures on the James River". The map's script describes trails and points of interest along the river from Jamestown to Richmond. She also noted that the Virginia Outdoor Plan, which will include articles on Virginia's Scenic Rivers will be published in April of 2007.

#### **Committee Membership**

Dr. Hambrick said that Catherine Harold is considering resigning from the Board due to the demands of her new job. He asked members to think about possible replacements.

#### **Open Discussion**

Lyn Lanier reported that a City contractor is working on material that will stabilize the Washington Arch and study the removal or blockage of the flume.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Cecil