

Minutes:

Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: - December 20, 2018, BridgePark RVA Headquarters, 901 E Byrd Street, Suite 100, Richmond, VA

Greg Velzy, Chair– Presiding

Call to Order: 12:00 PM

Attending: Committee members: Anne Wright, John Heerwald, Tricia Pearsall, Greg Velzy, Leighton Powell, John Moeser, Ralph Hambrick, Jim Hill, Justin Doyle, Lynn Crump. Ted Elmore – RVA BridgePark, Shawna Shade and Kathryn Mitchell – FOJRP, Mike Burton – JRPS, Jack Pearsall – Canal Committee (Venture Richmond)

Minutes - November 15, 2018 minutes – Motion by John Heerwald to approve, seconded by Leighton Powell, approved unanimously.

Presentation: BridgePark RVA – Concept Plan and Proposal: Ted Elmore presented the BridgePark proposal using the to-scale model which incorporates a greenway from Leigh Street (near the MLK Bridge) down 9th Street across the James River along the Manchester Bridge swinging east down Commerce Road on the Southside. He then presented a PowerPoint, which illuminated the finer points building on the momentum of urban elements meeting natural elements. The Committee and guests had many questions and reactions. Next step for this project is to apply to City Council for Incorporation into the Riverfront Development Plan. That would create leverage for funding. Ted is asking for support letters from river-related and other organizations. Leighton asked if the concept was it still in the planning stage. Ted said they are looking to have the vision stage completed by spring and begin the first stage of implementation. Kathryn Mitchell asked him about the cost. His answer indicated that the Riverfront Plan Amendment would determine the costing out process. He went on to add that they need to get the 9th Street (north) plan into the works very soon in order to hopefully be incorporated into the Navy Hill Development process. Ted went on to state that they are primarily promoting the connectivity of the project. When asked about maintenance following completion, he added that as a 501(c)3 corporation, they are considering recommending a private conservancy handle this once it's completed.

Lynn Crump added that there were numerous grants available as part of the east Coast Greenway project. Michael Burton added that currently the east Coast Greenway is routed across the T-Potterfield Bridge and on to the proposed Missing Link Trail.

Greg Velzy suggested that the Committee take up the BridgePark RVA 'letter of support' at our January 2019 meeting. Ted indicated he would keep the committee in the loop as to progress.

Current Issues:

- **Riverfront Development Plan:**
 - **Downriver Updates:** Leighton said she hadn't drafted the letter to the Mayor, but would soon.
- **Riverfront Development Plan:**
 - **Potterfield Bridge:** Michael Burton stated that the lights have been replaced and that the construction company has been notified concerning the popped flooring panels.
- **Missing Link Budget Appropriation:** No further information as yet. Survey work has been completed, said Michael as he had seen survey flags.

- **VA Scenic Rivers Program 50th Anniversary Effort & Potential Legislation for VDOT's Waterways & State Scenic River Signage Program:** Lynn Crump stated that DCR is working to get appropriations for the signage effort but that VDOT will not support because of expense. The next 50th Anniversary Meeting will be at Lake Anna State Park March 6, 7 or 8th 2019.
- **JRA Letter to Mayor concerning Funding for Riverfront Development Plan:** Leighton Powell made a motion For the Falls Committee to support the letter with addition of "Scenic" when referring to the James. John Heerwald seconded. Approved.
- **Scenic River Designation Extension:** John Moeser , John Heerwald, Greg Velzy, Tricia Pearsall and Lynn Crump met with Sarah Stewart and Martha Shickle, Exec Director of the RRPDC, to discuss the possibility of using the RRPDC as a vehicle for scenic river (James River) extension discussions. It was agreed that it was too late to make anything happen for the 2019 General Assembly session, but we would try for 2020. Lynn stated that she should have letters asking for eligibility study or surveys as early as March so she could schedule times when the James River is in-leaf to perform the surveys, and allow adequate time for the municipalities to vote or decide to move forward and get requests to their delegates by September 2019 in order to get on the docket (General Assembly) for 2020. She sent a timeline and sample letters of request to Tricia who forwarded them to Parker Agelasto.
- **Enrichmond – Vauxhall Island - Cede to City of Richmond Update:** December 17, 2018 - ORD. 2018-302 - To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition by gift of the property known as Vauxhall Island from the Enrichmond Foundation for the purpose of its incorporation in the James River Park System to be used for preservation of natural areas and open space in accordance with the terms of a grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

Action: adopted

Action text: This ordinance was adopted.

- **James River Park MasterPlan:** Steering Committee Meeting was held December 13, 2018 to schedule neighborhood/ council district meetings for discussion of plan and survey distribution. The Falls Committee has volunteered to staff the meeting being held on February 27, 2019 – need 6 volunteers. More information later. Survey is online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JamesRiverParkMasterPlan>
Take it and share!
- **CRLC – Updates** – Parker Agelasto was not present
- **DPU updates** – Grace LeRose was not present.

New Business:

Reports:

James River Park System – Michael Burton is acting Superintendent.

- A new superintendent has been hired. His name is Bryce Wilk. He comes to the JRPS from Pocahontas State Park where he was a Chief Ranger.
- JRPS will be dredging at Ancarrows Boat Ramp starting February 1, 2019
- Hired an Invasive task force employee with new shared-use grant of \$125,000.

JRA - Justin Doyle had to leave meeting

JRAC - James River Brochure – (we are listed)

JROC - Raising funds for Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater – King of the James Triathlon proceeds benefit <https://jroc.net/universal-access-at-huguenot-flatwater/>

FoJRP - JRPS Master Plan – See above

Open Discussion:

Meeting Adjourned: 1:45 pm

Tricia Pearsall
Secretary

Next Public Meeting: - January 17, 2019

Meetings begin at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room on the 5th 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. If you would like to be removed from the list, so indicate at the above e-mail address.