

Minutes:

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

Meeting: - April 18, 2019

Greg Velzy, Chair– Presiding

Call to Order: 12:02 PM

Attending: Committee members: John Heerwald, Tricia Pearsall, Greg Velzy, Leighton Powell, Justin Doyle, John Thompson. Shawna Shade – FOJRP, Bryce Wilk, Superintendent James River Park System, The Honorable Kimberly B. Gray, Councilwoman, Richmond.

Minutes - March 21, 2019 minutes – unanimously approved

Current Issues:

- **Mayor Stoney’s 2020 Budget and Appropriations for James River Park and Projects:** Justin Doyle stated that the budget/economic subcommittee hearing would be held Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:00pm, City Hall. This is an opportunity to speak on behalf of funding for James River related projects. Justin added that he felt good about the state of the approximately \$900,000 proposed for the River and was continuing to advocate for Missing Link funding. He added that there had been support from Council members, Parker Agelasto and Kristen Larson. Bryce Wilk added that at the moment there was no funding for repair/replacement of the Texas Beach tower (which will be evaluated for safety soon), but there was \$40,000 for evaluating 22nd Street and 42nd Street towers.
- **Riverfront Development Plan - Planning Department Updates:** Mark Olinger, Director of Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond could not be present but relayed via Greg Velzy that he would report back on the Missing Link survey in May and provide again a timeline for parking at Diversity Park. Tricia gave a shout out to Southern States for allowing parking on their property during shad season.
- **Riverfront Development Plan -Downriver Updates:** Leighton Powell had none. She will try to find out what’s happening by the May meeting.
- **Councilwoman Kimberly B. Gray:**
 - Encouraged us to read the article in Richmond Magazine – May issue concerning the very first Richmond City High School Rowing Team – a partnership between Richmond City Rowing and RPS and Franklin Military Academy.
 - She also indicated that everyone (City Council) loves the JRPS and riverfront and doubted that the proposed river funding would be subjected to the 1.5% across-the-board cut in funding appropriation.
- **VA Scenic Rivers Program 50th Anniversary:** The next 50th Anniversary Meeting will be held at Covenant Woods (Mechanicsville, VA) on May 7, 2019 from 10-12. Tricia and Greg can’t attend. John Heerwald and Justin Doyle indicated they could attend.
- **Virginia Scenic James River Designation Extension:**
 - John Moeser was disappointed that Henrico had not responded to the request for a Scenic River study and said he would write to John Vithoukaskas to see if he couldn’t spark some action.
 - Greg said that he had sent a letter answering all of Janit Llewellyn’s (Chesterfield County) concerns.
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- **James River Park MasterPlan:** Bruce Wilk reported that over 2000 surveys have been received and now they are crunching numbers. VHB will present a preliminary rough draft at a public meeting in June.

- **JRA:** Justin Doyle explained that they were undergoing testing and sampling of sediment and water quality in preparation for the State of the James Report. 2018-2019 had been a particularly wet year.
- **CRLC – Updates:** Parker Agelasto/Jane Myers not present, but Greg/Bryce talked with Jane Myers. She was suggesting that volunteers adopt a section of the JRPS to monitor Conservation Easement over a year's time. She is on track to have enough volunteers to complete this project.
- **DPU updates:** Grace LeRose was not present.
- **Whitewater Center:** Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine and the Asheville Citizen Times announced that Richmond had been chosen over Asheville, NC as headquarters for the Whitewater Hall of Fame to be established by the American Canoe Association. <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2019/04/09/asheville-loses-bid-host-whitewater-hall-fame-richmond/3236992002/>

New Business: John Moeser would still like for someone to pursue statue honoring Ralph White

Reports:

James River Park System – Bryce Wilk:

- JRPS is working with the Richmond Police Department to increase and make more secure parking available.
- Labor Crew Chief Position hopefully filled soon. Excellent seasonal staff on board.
- Need volunteers to help staff JRPS Headquarters on weekends.
- Will have visitor counts next month. Would like volunteer to help collect this information

JRA - State of the James to be presented in October 2019 based on 2018 data. Also Justin attended an RVA-H2O presentation for a proposed 2021 Green Master Plan - City of Richmond plus Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Documenting 3 watersheds in East End: Almond Creek, Gillies Creek and Shockoe Creek

JRAC - James River Days Brochure is out. James River Cleanup - September 2019 – 2nd weekend.

JROC – Cleanup of Vauxhall Island project - Saturday, April 20, 2019. Gear Swap on Tredegar Street – Saturday April 27, 2019.

FoJRP - Shawna Shade reported they continue to work on Master Plan for JRPS.

Open Discussion: None

Meeting Adjourned: 1:24 pm

Tricia Pearsall - Secretary

Next Public Meeting: - May 16, 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.



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 (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



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

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Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President

Copy: The Honorable Tyrone Nelson, Chairman, Henrico County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor,
Virginia Voter District, Henrico County, Virginia, P.O. Box 90775, Henrico, Virginia 22273-0775
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:

