

Minutes:

Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: - October 18, 2018, 5th Floor Conference Room – City Hall – Richmond, VA

Greg Velzy, Chair– Presiding

Call to Order: 12:02 PM

Minutes - September 20, 2018 minutes – Motion to approve, seconded, passed unanimously.

Attending: Justin Doyle, Jim Hill, Anne Wright, John Heerwald, Tricia Pearsall, Greg Velzy, Parker Agelasto (CRLC), Shawna Shade (FoJRP)

Current Issues:

- **Riverfront Development Plan:**

- **Downriver Updates** – There was considerable discussion involving Stone’s proposed demolition of the historic Intermediate Terminal building-Warehouse #3. Leighton had proposed drafting a letter to the Mayor stating our opposition to this demolition. John Heerwald stated that mainly because it had lost its context, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources has deemed the building ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and therefore Historic Richmond Foundation was not going to fight its removal. He went on to say that we should probably not fight for it if a State agency had not endorsed its historic value. Jim Hill stated that this area wasn’t flushed out in the original Riverfront Development Plan and what seemed ironclad was no more. Justin Doyle added that his concern was that we lose no more public footprint and protect at all cost the open space going forward. Leighton and Greg had drafted + sent (after peer review) a letter to the Mayor introducing our organization and its responsibility concerning the James River. (See attached). It was suggested that we could write an opinion concerning disposition of the building and area. Also it was suggested that we have a meeting with the Mayor to find out exactly what Stone is seeking regarding the Downriver Development in this area. There is grave concern that Stone is not only renegeing on it’s original contract with the City but is perhaps proposing a building which would be outside the Terminal height and building surrounds, as well as encroach on the public areas along that section of the River.
 - In a somewhat related request, Justin and Jim Hill asked if anyone knew the disposition of the Rockets monument, which was in the roundabout area? Jim stated that he didn’t think it was lost.
- **Potterfield Bridge:** The art lights are coming down, having been up much longer than intended. The stolen vertical lights are still out along the bridge.
- **Missing Link:** Feasibility study is underway. Survey work is complete. Hargreaves will then make a proposal as to linkage with the Potterfield and Belle Isle. General consensus was that this would be presented as three options and would be open for public comment. Jim Hill stated that we needed to reach out to Mark Olinger to monitor this process. Tricia Pearsall will invite and include him on email announcements of all Falls’ meetings. Hopefully he can attend and bring us up to date or send a City Planning representative.
- **Proposed Development Sites:**
 - There was news of a proposal to purchase Mayo’s Island for a Whitewater Outdoor Center. This is still in the extremely early stages. It was noted that Charles MacFarlane was one of the interested parties. He was also a party to moving the Richmond Braves to the island in 1980.
 - Also it was reported that Tim Nesslerodt, CEO of Richmond Community Rowing and UR Head Rowing Coach is seeking to construct a building to house shells at Ancarrows.

- **Scenic River Designation Extension the James River:** - John Moeser was not present but has been trying to get on the agenda of the RRPDC to explain the benefits of and promote Scenic River designation for the James River in the Metro area. John Heerwald suggested that might be putting the cart before the horse because DCR had to survey/evaluate the portions of the James River to be considered and that would probably have to be done in two sections given geographic considerations. There was much discussion about how that might be facilitated from the City's perspective for the Eastern portion within the City boundaries. Parker Agelasto arrived late and added to this discussion that he believed no one in the City would oppose this but that it had to be handled appropriately. He said that he would reach out to the City to get this underway, then we could send a mailing to all the property owners before sending the request to DCR. In the meantime he would also reach out to Glen Sturtevant concerning the James to the west. He also recommended that we educate the City's lobbyist, Ron Jordan, about the benefits of the Scenic River designation.
- **CRLC – Support of Conservation Easement on 25 East Main Street property under Libby Hill** – Parker reported that the Board approved the easement on this parcel – both viewshed and BMP as it must contain runoff.
- **Enrichmond – Vauxhall Island - Cede to City of Richmond Update:** From Mark Olinger: Stated in passing that the easement was in place and it would come up for approval at the November 13, 2018 Council Meeting. If everything went as planned, it should become part of the City by the first of the year.
- **Falls of the James - Signage and Media Update:** Anne Wright reported that these Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts are up but we must decide how we want to manage them.
- **James River Park MasterPlan:** Meetings are underway to determine the process of soliciting information for the plan. In a related revelation it was learned that the JRP Conservation Easement Document has finally been completed and that only a small portion of the JRP is actually under conservation easement.

New Business: None

Reports:

James River Park System – Nathan Burrell – not present.

JRA - Juvenile sturgeon have been identified in the tidal James River 10.22.18

JRAC - none

JROC - Raising funds for Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater - <https://jroc.net/universal-access-at-huguenot-flatwater/>

The plans for the Access have been approved and JROC is currently raising most of the \$340,000 construction costs.

FoJRP - see above

CRLC - see above

Open Discussion: None

Meeting Adjourned: 1:35 pm

Tricia Pearsall
Secretary

******Next Public Meeting: - November 15, 2018******

Meetings are scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of each month. All meetings begin at noon and 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 velzyq@verizon.net. If you would like to be removed from the list, so indicate at the above e-mail address.



Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Falls of the James... a designated *Virginia State Scenic River*
Pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 10.1-40144, *Scenic River Advisory Committee members are appointed to "consider and manage scenic river interests and issues," and "shall assist and advise the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and the local governing body with the protection or management of the scenic river segment in their jurisdiction."*

Committee Members October 10, 2018

Gregory J. Volzy
Chair

The Honorable Levar Stoney
Mayor of Richmond
900 East Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Leighton Powell
Vice Chair

Tricia Pearsall
Secretary

Re: Falls-of-the-James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Alex Dahm

Dear Mayor Stoney:

Justin Day'e

Greetings from the Falls-of-the-James Scenic River Advisory Committee (FOTJSRAC). We thank you for your ongoing work to make the City of Richmond a better place for all, and we are grateful to have a leader fueled by passion and vision.

Ralph Hambrick

John F. Heerwald

John V. Moeser

We write today for two reasons: To remind you who we are and to request your assistance in helping us carry out our charge.

Tricia Pearsall

John B. Thompson

Our State-appointed Scenic River Advisory Committee is tasked with overseeing and advising on issues related to Richmond's designated stretch of the James and its environs. We were the second Scenic River Advisory Committee created by the Commonwealth, and we will proudly celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2020.

Anne B. Wright

Our members take our charge quite seriously, viewing the James and its riverfront as an urban gem that provides opportunities for both recreation and quiet reflection. (You met two of us – John Heerwald and myself – on the raft during your recent whitewater excursion trip. We hope that you enjoyed the experience as much as we did.)

Committee members possess expertise on a host of river-related issues including but not limited to water quality, river recreation, wildlife habitat, public parks, history, and scenic resources. We welcome opportunities to share our knowledge, and we do so with the sole goal of bettering our beautiful Capital City for its citizens.

To be effective, though, we must be notified about any actions or proposals that would have an impact on the James River and the riverfront. We, therefore, request that City Planning Director Mark Olinger attend our monthly meetings to provide that information and/or alert us to any proposed revisions to adopted City Plans that reference the James River (e.g., Downtown Plan, Riverfront Plan, and Downriver Plan).

Our Committee meets at noon on the third Thursday of the month in City Hall's Fifth Floor conference room, directly across the hall from the Planning Department. We can accommodate Mark at any time during our meeting, and we do not anticipate keeping him for more than 15 minutes. Receiving this briefing is vital to our work, so we ask for your help and thank you in advance for any assistance that you can offer.

We conclude by thanking you for this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We share your passion for our beloved RVA, and we look forward to working together toward a strengthened and vibrant James River and riverfront. If you have any questions, you can reach me via email at Velzyg@Verizon.net. We would be pleased to provide our assistance at any time.

Sincerely,

Greg Velzy

Gregory J. Velzy
Chair, Falls-of-the-James Scenic River Advisory Committee