

Minutes:

**Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting
Richmond VA**

Meeting: October 21, 2021

Leighton Powell: Vice Chair – Presiding

Call to Order: 12:06 PM

Attending Committee Members: Tricia Pearsall, John Heerwald, Ralph Hambrick, Leighton Powell, Jim Hill, Justin Doyle.
Community Attending: Kevin Vonck (Director Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond), Jenn Clarke (Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, City of Richmond), Grace LeRose (Policy Advisor, DPU, City of Richmond Virginia), Donnie Autry (Assistant City Attorney, Operations and Development Division of the Office of the City Attorney).

Minutes: Minutes of September 16, 2021. Motion to approve-Ralph Hambrick. Second-Leighton Powell. Approved.

Current Issues:

- **Riverfront Development Plan** (and other James River related) updates: Kevin Vonck, (Director, Department of Planning and Community Review, City of Richmond)
 - **Missing Link:** Met with Alex Dandridge, Secretary of Urban Design Committee, and Parks and Recreation (Chris Frelke and Bryce Wilk) to bring everyone up to date on the two connector alternatives proposed by Hargreaves and look at other possibilities. Conceptual plans should be finished by the first of the year and submitted to the Urban Design Committee, such that Parks and Recreation can start to build cost into their budget.
 - **Manchester:**
 - There are 6 on-street parking spaces (Manchester Road) as part of the Hydro Apartment build with potential for more.
 - As second phase of the South Falls project Tower 1, completed west of Hull Street (aka Moscow on the James), Tower 2 is proposed on the east side of Hull Street. As part of this project Kevin is proposing a connection to the Manchester Canal and working with the Army Corps of Engineers to secure feasibility of improvements to the Manchester Canal and work to create a natural habitat and walking path
 - Tricia mentioned to Kevin the possibility of formalizing a path/put-in for paddle boats underneath the I-95 bridge Southside. Trucks park under there near the river routinely and this would formalize and protect the rutted environment. And also asked if there were any plans to redo the surface of the Potterfield Bridge as the sections continue to pop up and people are tripping on popped segments.
 - **Riverfront Development:** no developments
 - **Libby Hill Viewshed:** Kevin is working with this plan to secure legality and zoning work. Kevin also added that the City has a new Building Commissioner and that they will shortly start work on updating and redoing the City's zoning code.
- **James River Safety Issues: CSX:** Ralph Hambrick wrote a letter to CSX and sent out September 13, 2021. He didn't know if Greg had sent the letter to the Richmond Times Dispatch. No one has seen it on the Editorial Page.
- **CRLC-JRA updates:** Parker Agelasto was not present, but Justin Doyle stated that the easement for the JRA parcel of the Dock Street land acquisition had been completed and submitted today. This will be part of the December 21, 2021 closing. JRA has held virtual community meetings and conducted a survey concerning the JRA project. The survey will remain open until the end of October and encourage **everyone to complete:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X5Y8HQR>

In early November, JRA will reconvene stakeholders for another session by 3North. He will make certain that Falls Committee members are included. JRA is also met with the City and the Virginia Capital Trail concerning realignment of the Capital Trail. They will begin the permit process right away. They have been able to put the Capital Trail on top of a sewer easement which is a major accomplishment and makes the rerouting much easier. Kevin applauded their getting the alignment in place and consulting with all players early in the game. Justin reported that by 2022, all planning issues should be in place for acceptance into the James River Park with all other connective elements in gear. The Conservation Fund purchased the property on August 2, 2021 with the entire parcel to become part of the James River Park:

James River Center Project: <https://thejamesriver.org/james-river-center/>

- **I-95 bridge signage** update: Rick Burgess says that the James River Bridge sign will go up the first week in November. Tricia also asked about a sign for the Powhite Parkway Bridge and will consult Mr. Burgess about that.
- **James River Park:** The advertisement for the position of Superintendent James River Park has been re-issued.
- **DPU updates:** Grace LeRose and Jenn Clarke:
 - Grace started the meeting by showing us the video of the sewer monster extracted from the area near the pumping station 14th Street Takeout: <https://fb.watch/8NnV4jHtva/> Grace also reiterated that the extraction of this sewer clog and the truck needed to pull it out are another example of why kayak vehicles should not be parked on the Floodwall side of the takeout road. Grace had to call Greg to get a Riverside Outfitters' bus to move for this event.
 - Grace stated that a stakeholder meeting for the Final Plan phase of the CSO will take place soon. They are asking for at least three representatives from each City Council district so that there is indeed citywide representation
 - There will be an article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch about the new CSO Smart-Sewer map which tracks CSO events in real-time. **See announcement below.**
 - Jenn related that the pipeline repair is going slower than thought. Certain variables keep coming up as obstacles. They are now wrapping the pipe to seal it. 16 linear feet of circumferential wrapping. Once that is finished, they'll update the CCTV coverage inside the pipe, then open temporarily before opening to the public. She's hoping for at least a decade until further CSO improvement. (sounds like the Glasgow House plumbing)
 - They are still trying to figure a repair for the James River & Kanawha Canal break.
- **BridgePark Proposal Restructure:** Jim Hill is meeting with Ted Elmore tomorrow.

New Business:

Reports:

JRA: See above

JRAC: no word on the Christmas Parade of Boats

JROC: The 7th Annual King of the James adventure triathlon will be held November 14th 2021. Participate or volunteer. Both are needed! This is the major fundraiser for the Accessible Ramp at Huguenot Flatwater and all other JROC projects.

FOJRP: Josh Stutz not present.

Open discussion:

Adjourn: 12:50PM

Next Public Meeting: November 18, 2021 - Zoom

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.

Tricia Pearsall – Secretary

Addendum:


CSO – Event Smart-Sewer map Notice from RVA.H2O

 Huge news for Combined Sewer System Overflow Events in Richmond! 

Real-time data is now viewable in the map below so you can know exactly where and when overflows occur (and plan your James River visits accordingly!).

(Pro tip: Bookmark the link for rainy days!)

Just hover over (or, on your phone, click on) any of the remaining 25 overflow points in Richmond to see the last time it discharged combined flows--easy as that and you'll be up-to-date!

Red triangles give you a quick notification that there's been an overflow in the last 48 hours. 

Yellow boxes--which you'll see a lot of today--mean that our team is recalibrating those sensors and meters. Our crews are out there right now to ensure we all get the best data!

This up-to-date system will replace the email alerts of the past (which were triggered and automated when it rained 0.1" at the [Richmond International Airport](#), which doesn't always reflect rainfall within city limits).

This new map uses:

- meters at each outfall to quantify flows
- rain gauges in Richmond
- real-time data that's updated continuously!

This real-time technology and data makes Richmond's the first "Smart Sewers" in Virginia (we love being trendsetters)!

And this system will help us to maximize and fully utilize the capacity within our system to prevent overflows and reduce overflow volume!

We know y'all love accurate information and continuous updates, so we hope you'll love this update and map made for you too!

Let us know what you think--and spread the word!