

Minutes:

Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting: - November 15, 2018, 5th Floor Conference Room – City Hall – Richmond, VA

Greg Velzy, Chair– Presiding

Call to Order: 12:05 PM

Minutes - October 18, 2018 minutes – Motion by John Thompson to approve, seconded by John Moeser, approved unanimously.

Attending: Anne Wright, John Heerwald, Tricia Pearsall, Greg Velzy, John Thompson, Leighton Powell, John Moeser, Ted Elmore – RVA BridgePark

Current Issues:

- **Riverfront Development Plan:**
 - **Downriver Updates:** Terminal Building disposition. Leighton Powell relayed that Stone Brewery had pulled the two papers that were before City Council concerning the demolition of the Intermediate Terminal Building. It is uncertain what Stone will consider now. She added that this was an opportunity for the Falls Committee to be part of the discussion and indicated that perhaps Stone might not be as enthused about the project as before. She also added that this whole process shed light on just how bad the EDA's deal was for the riverfront and the Richmond public. It is important for us to thank the Mayor for pulling the papers off the agenda and to let City Council members know what a raw deal was made between the City and Stone. The beer garden site could be open to all people or this could be a site for a James River history museum or effort. Leighton will draft a letter from the Falls Committee to the Mayor and Council members thanking the Mayor and illuminating the EDA's deal and importance of keeping with the Riverfront and Downriver Plans. John Moeser thanked Leighton for her leadership in this matter. John Heerwald went on to add that the reversion of the property to the City (should Stone opt out of the property) was in the original contract but EDA took it out.
- **BridgePark RVA:** Ted Elmore (interrupted the agenda for presentation) – The BridgePark RVA project as now envisioned as a 2-mile Greenway that would include a streetscape from the north - 9th and Leigh (bringing 4 underserved neighborhoods together including across the MLK Bridge) continuing down and across the Manchester Bridge to Commerce Street—Green Spine of the City. He alluded to the project somewhat mimicking Olmstead's 'Emerald Necklace' of Boston's City Parks connecting the Commons to Franklin Park with the first jewel being Coliseum Park. Support is needed to have this project incorporated into the Riverfront Development Plan and developed into a public/private partnership in stages. The Committee decided that if it can get the attendance commitments, the December 20, 2018 Falls meeting will be held at BridgePark headquarters at Riverfront Plaza 9th & Byrd Streets. This way Ted can make a presentation using the giant model. Need Committee member commitments.
- **Riverfront Development Plan:**
 - **Potterfield Bridge:** From Mark Olinger: Concerning lights: "Parks issue now. PDR will come back through and plant some trees in the spring that have died, but we're not involved in lighting now." Questions were raised: Is the Potterfield in the Conservation Easement? And Michael Burton about new lights? Since maintenance seems to be such an expense – need to know exact projected figures as well

as perhaps look into sharing those expenses regionally.

- **Missing Link Budget Appropriation:** Mark Olinger: “Survey work for Missing Link project is nearly complete. Hargreaves Associates will turn their attention to the project in the near future. Survey work is about complete, as per notes; however, we’re still working to get the final pieces done that are on Norfolk Southern land which is hampering completion. Hargreaves set to begin as soon as survey done...schedule of meetings, etc., to come as soon as we get the survey work finished.” Justin Doyle also wrote: “Accessing the Norfolk Southern property requires a Right-of-Entry form. Hargreaves Associates will turn their attention to the project in the near future. All contract pieces are in place for the project to move forward.”
- **Representation of Planning Department at Meeting:** Mark Olinger indicated that should be him. We agreed to try to find a time for his presentation, so he didn’t have to sit through the entire Committee meeting.
- **Scenic River Designation Extension:**
 - John Moeser expressed frustration at his attempts to schedule a time to make a presentation to the RPC concerning the benefits of the Scenic River designation and the work that the Falls Committee does for the City of Richmond’s segment.
 - Lynn Crump responded by email concerning evaluation western/eastern segments of the James for Scenic River designation: “I was actually on the James in Lynchburg yesterday. They are looking at putting in a white water park there. Anyway, in answer to your question. You could ask for both sections at the same time and we could, if the logistics worked out, do it in one day. Just two things for consideration: the ask needs to come from all impacted localities and I would hope to get the ask so we could do it in the late spring 2019 for submission to the General Assembly in 2020.” Greg, Tricia and others need to meet with Lynn to ask questions about the local procedure.
- **VA Scenic Rivers Program 50th Anniversary Effort & Potential Legislation for VDOT's Waterways & State Scenic River Signage Program:** From Lynn Crump via e-mail:
 - We have Boat stickers w/our logo to hand out.
 - The Board of Conservation and Recreation met and voted to support recommendations from the Scenic Resources subcommittee [below].
 - VA Tourism has offered us the opportunity to get 'Virginia is for RIVER Lovers branded'- if we want.
 - Carl Espy is working with Del. Edmonds on the signage issue. If you have ideas please reach out to them.
 - We hope to set up a meeting between now and the end of this year. If you have big blocks of time when you are not available, please send them to me so I can cull them down and set some options up.
 - Tricia Asked why there is no Scenic River sign on the I-95 James River Bridge?
- **Enrichmond – Vauxhall Island - Cede to City of Richmond Update:** From Mark Olinger: “Transfer to City of Richmond update Ordinance for transfer of Vauxhall to City set for introduction on 11/12 (I’ll let you know Tues. night if that is NOT the case, but should be). Planning Commission and Council in December. Hope is to close shortly thereafter if all closing matters settled.”
What is conservation easement status?
- **Falls of the James - Signage and Media Update:** No change. We could add information, but need text.
- **James River Park MasterPlan:** Meetings are underway to determine the process of soliciting information for the plan. Next Steering Committee meeting is Dec 4, 2018. In a related revelation it was learned that the JRP Conservation Easement document has finally been completed and that only a portion of the JRP is actually under conservation easement.
- **CRLC – Updates –** Parker Agelasto was not present

- **DPU updates** – Grace LeRose was not present, but Greg Velzy added that RVAH2O is receiving an award November 29th

New Business:

- **World Rivers Center** - There was news of a proposed Whitewater Outdoor Center for Richmond, perhaps on Mayo's Island. The idea would be a Center similar to Nantahala with perhaps a play feature in the river. There is also a push to locate the Whitewater Hall of Fame in Richmond. Need more information.
- **Coal-Ash Removal Status:** Interesting article at Virginia Mercury: <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/11/15/a-flurry-of-developments-this-week-on-dominions-coal-ash-closure-plans-set-the-stage-for-the-next-general-assembly-session-to-settle-the-issue/>

Reports:

James River Park System – Michael Burton is acting Superintendent and he could not be present.

JRA - Justin Doyle not present

JRAC - No Boat Parade of Lights this year

JROC - Raising funds for Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater –

<https://jroc.net/universal-access-at-huguenot-flatwater/>

FoJRP - see above

Friends of the Pumphouse – November 29, 2018 – 8-noon – noon, Cherrette on future of Pumphouse

Open Discussion: None

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 pm

Tricia Pearsall
Secretary

******Next Public Meeting: - December 20, 2018****.**

To be held at BridgePark RVA Headquarters

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 velzyg@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 Doye

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
overscoping 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.



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