

Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee - March 21, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Nathan Burrell, Alex Dahm, Justin Doyle, Jim Hill, John Moeser, Leighton Powell, John Thompson, Greg Velzy, Bryce Wilk

Guests in attendance: Jacob Corona, Shawna Shade

Meeting Minutes

John Moeser motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Leighton Powell and passed unanimously.

Mayor Stoney's Proposed Budget

Justin Doyle provided an overview of Mayor Stoney's proposed budget. The Mayor's proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024, presented to City Council earlier this month, includes more than \$1 million for projects that will contribute a more accessible James River.

- \$330,000 for Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater
- \$400,000 for Tredegar/Brown's Island Accessible Walk Improvements
- \$205,400 for Canal Walk Connector to Brown's Island
- \$210,000 for Gillies Creek Greenway

The Mayor's proposed budget also includes \$927,354 for the James River Park System.

Alex Dahm reported the north side of the Canal Walk is funded and there are no plans to extend west beyond 10th Street.

Missing Link

Survey work is complete on the Missing Link project. The project is an opportunity to address trespassing at the Norfolk Southern railyard.

The Missing Link project is not funded in the Mayor's proposed budget. Justin Doyle will draft a letter offering the committee's assistance to the Mayor.

Updates from Mark Olinger

Greg Velzy shared an update from Mark Olinger of Planning and Development Review. Mark reports the Vauxhall Island transfer from Enrichmond Foundation to the City of

Richmond. The \$75,000 grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation will go to Enrichmond Foundation via the City of Richmond.

\$900,000 for East Riverfront is not in the the proposed Capital Improvement Plan. The proposed Capital Improvement Plan includes funding for projects like the Low Line, Manchester Canal, and Tredegar/Brown's Island improvements.

James River Park System Conservation Easement Monitoring

Nathan Burrell and Bryce Wilk met with Jane Myers of Capital Region Land Conservancy yesterday. 100 acres of land should be incorporated into the James River Park System conservation easement in the near future. A family is donating islands located upriver of Williams Island to the City of Richmond.

Nathan reported the restatement of the easement will remove the skate park from it, define impervious surface within it, and encourage offsets.

Annual easement monitoring of the easement is underway. Monitoring conducted by volunteers is the preferred method of monitoring the easement.

An event celebrating the easement will be held at Pony Pasture on June 5.

50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program

The steering committee met March 6 and discussed organizing an event with lawmakers during the veto session.

Extension of Scenic River Designation

No responses have been received from Chesterfield County or Henrico County regarding the the extension of the scenic river designation.

James River Park System Master Plan

Neighborhood meetings are complete. A public meeting was held March 6. The questionnaire is open until the end of March.

Department of Public Utilities Update

No update. Grace LeRose absent.

Venture Richmond Update

Alex Dahm reported the Haxall Canal dredging project is complete ahead of schedule. 9,000 cubic feet of sediment and debris was removed from the canal.

Alex reported Max Hepp-Buchanan was recently hired by Venture Richmond and will be involved in the James River and Kanawha Canal project going forward.

River Towers Special Use Permit

Jim Hill spoke to David Watson who is encouraging the applicant to withdraw the special use permit application.

James River Park System Update

Bryce Wilk reported the February flood washed out some of the service road on Belle Isle and parking area at Pony Pasture. Luck Stone donated stone for Belle Isle and the Pony Pasture parking area.

The dredging permit for Ancarrow's Landing was not acquired. James River Park System staff members cleared the boat ramp as much as possible. Bryce has received numerous calls regarding the boat ramp. Signs were installed yesterday.

The Labor Crew Chief position to be re-advertised and six seasonal staff will be hired.

The May issue of Richmond Magazine is the river issue.

Pump House Park Update

Nathan Burrell reported Timmons Group and 3northg are working on a 30% design document. Friends of Pump House Park is organizing a festival on Saturday, April 6.

James River Advisory Council - Quarterly meeting is scheduled for April.

James River Outdoor Coalition - Continuing to work on universal access at Huguenot Flatwater. Katie Lemmert is President, Martha James is Vice President, Sally Wetzler is Treasurer, and Matt Rosenberg is Secretary. Vauxhall Island cleanup planned for April.

Friends of James River Park System - No update from Shawna Shade.

Open Discussion

Greg Velzy reported the Virginia Outdoors Plan was released.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019.

