

## **Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail September 18, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Joe Giffune, Alice Flyte, Carolyn Cacolice, Bob Pac, Eric Bressler, George Hart, Ashley Eaton, Bengt-Olaf Schneider, Dan Call, Mike Young, Don Podolski

**Absent:** Carmel Steiger, Chris Steiger, Joe Camilleri, John Tassinari, Bob Burch

**Guests:** Marc Cressotti- City Engineer, Juanita Carnes- Westfield Board of Health, Donna Green

### **June Meeting Minutes**

- Motion: Approve June meeting minutes as submitted.
  - First: Dan; Seconded: Eric
  - Unanimously approved

### **Marc Cressotti, City of Westfield Engineer**

- CGRT Central Section MassDOT Public Hearing
  - Scheduled for October 16, 2018, 6:30pm, City Hall-Room 315. FOCGRT encouraged to come lend your support
- CGRT Central Section Updates
  - Advertising date moved back to June of 2019 (from April of 2019). Shovels in ground maybe by end of 2019 at earliest. Poised to start Right of Way acquisition soon. Just waiting on MassDOT Right of Way teams approval.
  - \$800,000 in Environmental Bond Bill from CGRT Central Section
    - Essentially “fake money” until someone puts it in a budget. Five years to get this in a budget and spent. This funding could cover some non-competing costs, but have more earmarked than programmed right now. Possible ideas for funding could include:
      - Parking lot at end of esplanade
      - Turning old G&E horse barn into museum/public restrooms
      - Installation of bike parking throughout downtown
        - Need a plan regarding location and number throughout
        - Could it fund study of trail to North?
    - Motion: Form a committee to study and recommend central section amenities:
      - First: Don; Seconded: Dan
      - Unanimously approved
      - **Who wants to serve on this committee?**

**Juanita Karns- Member of the Board of Health and bike trail enthusiast**

- Board of Health has tobacco/public health funding that they would like to spend. Idea is to use funding to purchase healthy behavior signage for the trail. Board of Health can fund as long as signs say “no smoking.” Board of Health has graphic designer that will help with design.
  - Need a list of what rules and suggestions we’d like to see on the sign, where they should go, and what they should look like
  - Dan and Don will send list of what they want to see, where and examples from other trails to Board and contact
    - Contact information:
      - Juanita Carnes
      - H: 413-562-7531 / C: 413-454-4359 / [mowita25@gmail.com](mailto:mowita25@gmail.com)

## **Director Reports**

### *Joe- Chair*

- Punch list for CGRT North finished. Project is officially complete. Should be noted bridge is already prone to vandalism.
- Thank You Letter to MassDOT regarding CGRT North
  - Bob to send draft to Ashley. Ashley to spruce up and send to board for approval before sending to MassDOT.

### *Eric- Treasurer*

- Profit/Loss sheet and Balance sheet presented
- Year to Date Budget next meeting

### *Ashley- Director of Planning and Development*

- Golden Spike was a success. Good networking and understanding of entire trail system. Had a fellow trail advocate follow up regarding helping to explore routes from CGRT north to Southampton. Ashley wanted to check in with the board before saying yes, we’d love a second set of eyes. Also waiting to hear back on Northampton to New Haven branding meeting- Ashley, Dan and Alice expressed interest in being part of this on post-event survey.
- Signage- on hold over the summer. Working to get update quote this month.
- 350th- Ashley gave overview of four events proposed by the 350th subcommittee. (Yoga on esplanade, bike rodeo, trail quest, and 350 ft slow race). Subcommittee looking for assurance that can get at least 12 volunteers and preliminary budget of \$1,500 for these events. Alice shared concerns that might be taking on too much, especially as other people might be involved with other groups that weekend. Preference that giveaways have longevity and minimize plastic--ex. Bandanas preferable to stickers.
  - Motion: Accept events proposed by 350th sub-committee with a budget of up to \$1,500--with the condition that sub-committee will come back to group with refined budget.
    - First: Dan; Seconded: Eric
    - Yes: Joe, Alice, Carolyn, Bob, Eric, George, Ashley, Bengt-Olaf, Dan, Mike, Don

- No: Alice
- Instagram: Ashley would like to establish and run. Will share log-in with board and teach those interested in learning it about it. Send me any photos via text or email!

*Alice- Director of Membership*

- 3-fold and business letter finalized. Will be looking for a list of businesses to reach out to regarding membership.
- Tuesday in the Trail were a success, but also challenge due to weather. There was great success in partnering with other businesses/groups. Has built interest in the trail and turnout. Alice is looking to go away next summer and will be looking for someone to pick up the torch for Tuesdays on the Trail next summer.
- 3rd Annual Glow Walk
  - October 24th @ 6pm
  - Will find space to set up membership and brick table
  - Motion: Spend \$50 on glow sticks for the event
    - First: Don; Seconded: Bengt-Olaf
    - Unanimously approved

*Bob- Director of Maintenance*

- Big E Parade- If want to participate contact John Tassinari.
- Review of Maintenance Report Highlights
  - Wood Railings Damaged- working with DPW to address
  - Homeless Camping ongoing issue- reporting to Police as needed
  - Erosion- in contact with DPW

Old Business

- Website issues- Fixed. Can remove from agenda
- Kiwanis- \$300 check for helmets- have not received- Eric and Joe working on it
- Westfield River Bridge Plaque- not addressed yet

New Business

- Security Camera on Bridge
- Email Distribution
  - Are non-voting members being included on agenda emails?
- Great River Ride
  - October 7th- Don looking for volunteers

Next Meeting:

- Moved to Tuesday, October 23, 2018 @ 6:30pm (Location TBD)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Eaton