

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020

Call to Order

Acting Chair

Roll Call

Chair

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman - Carmel Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Membership – Donna Green | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – open | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Education – Don Podolski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bob Hamel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Joe Giffune | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – Jonathan McHatton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – John Tassinari |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk – Chris Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Reenie Hamel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large - Dan Call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – Bob Pac | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large – Paul Cacolice | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cressotti – City Engineer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – George Hart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Carolyn Cacolice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Bard - WPD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Ferguson | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Westerlind | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

Meeting called to order.

Previous meeting minutes moved to approve.

Reports of City Officers (Mark Cressotti)

- A. Greenway Central section is under construction.
- B. Regarding the Country Club Drive connector to the Greenway, it was recommended that the Eng. Dpt return to the CDC to request full funding for the project. This is on the agenda for the CDC meeting in April. The proposed connector would go from the back of the Country Club Dr neighborhood to the Greenway. It would take bikes/walkers off of Shaker Rd., onto a sidewalk within the Shaker Rd. right-of-way.
- C. The clearing work done on the Central Section, behind TD Bank, was done by Westfield G&E, not NE Infrastructure (contractor for Central Section).
- D. NE Infrastructure expected to work on footings for new bridges in the spring. 4 of the 5 bridges in the Central Section will be new. Only the Elm St. Bridge is expected to be re-used. Early indications are that it is possible new sections of the trail will be passable by the end of this year.
- E. A section of the fence around the Stop & Shop parking lot was removed. There is a desire to leave the section open, if possible. Mark agreed to reopen discussions regarding the fence.
- F. On 3/23, there will be a public hearing at City Hall regarding Westfield River Levee Multi-Use trail.
- G. Western Ave. project landscaping scheduled for spring.

Kevin Bard

- A. No new vandalism reported.
- B. Regarding the roots under the E.Silver St. ramp, Kevin and Scott Hathaway from DPW reviewed the damage being caused by the tree roots. DPW agreed to address the issue in the spring.
- C. Reenie Hamel asked Kevin for help from WPD to coordinate safety for Mayor's Ride on 5/9/20 10a.

Public Participation

Kate Phelon – suggested FOCGRT board members periodically attend city council meetings to update the members about trail progress and use. Mayors coffee hours are another way to keep the word out and Chamber of Commerce morning brew the second Wednesday of the month. Discussion about a FOCGRT attending Chamber radio show in August to discuss Great River Ride. Kate to put on radio show schedule.
Councilor Matthews-Kane introduction.

Chair (Carmel Steger)

Discussion about article in newspaper about Country Club Lane bike path. February 19 is Chamber after 5 meeting, any interested board members should contact Carmel. Bike rack discussion, four racks donated to FOCGRT and what how to distribute them throughout city. Would businesses be willing to sponsor the racks for a fee and city installing them? Carmel will contact Mark about best locations once the central section is underway or completed. Donna, Carmel and Jonathan to draft a press release for business opportunities to donate to the board. Newspaper article that interviewed Carmel about central section. Discussion about updating web page with current board members. Chris to send John approved slate.

Vice Chair

Vacant position

Treasurer's Report (Carmel)

Joe is working on a 2019 year-end report. Carmel paid FOCGRT taxes. Still looking for a permanent Treasurer. John investigated QuickBooks software and it is out of date and needs updating. Cost is about \$300 and John has volunteered to donate a computer to FOCGRT for Treasurer's and board use. Motion made by Bob H to approve the purchase of QuickBooks software up to \$350, seconded by John, motion passed.

Director of Planning and Development Report

Wayfair sign work is continuing.

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Traffic data reviewed. Plan to correct trail pavement that has been lifted by roots underway. Reviewed report showing Massachusetts is fifth in country for being bike friendly.

Director of Education (Don)

Attended north trail connector meeting with Mark and other board members and reviewed options. PVPC is looking for a FOCGRT contact for bike week, there is a planning meeting February 4th in Holyoke.

Director of Membership

Two new members added and emails for Newsletter. Working on finalizing trail newsletter. April 18th is opening trails day sponsored by the Rail Trail Conservancy.

Nominating Committee

Slate of board members presented for approval, motion to approve the board as presented by Bob, seconded by John T, discussion that Johnathan should be moved to Director of Resource Development, changed made, motion approved with change.

At Large:

No comments.

GRR Update:

Discussion about how to insure FOCGRT for event. There needs to be a way for linking to FOCGRT donation page and registration web page. FOCGRT members need to solicit company sponsorships in February. Donna to send out email finalizing board members who are willing to be on the GRR subcommittee.

Old Business:

Northside route – meeting held with FOCGRT members and Mark.
Bike racks – continuing discussions with city about placement and fundraising opportunities.
FOCGRT Board members' pictures – please to John.

New Business:

Bike week is May 9 – 17, 2020. Need to start developing plans for events.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at Greater Westfield YMCA.

Note: Chris will not be at this meeting. Another board member will need to take and type notes for minutes.

Motion to adjourn by Dan, seconded by Bob P, adjourned at 8:13 pm.