

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2018

Meeting called to order.

Present: Joe Giffune, Carmel Steger, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Ashley Eaton, Mike Young, Don Podolski, Bengt-Olaf Schneider, Dan Call, Mark Cressotti, Carolyn Cacolice

Guests: Paul Cacolice, JoAnne Podolski

Previous meeting minutes: Dan moved to approve, seconded by Ashley. Motion passed.

Mark Cressotti/Westfield Engineering Dept.

Rail trail walk through with designer completed. Cost estimate is a little over original amount but that can be worked out. Looking into grants for trail lighting. A plan still needs to be put in place for the billboard. Final design plans to be turned over to state by end of April. Westfield River bridge is progressing, Mark to provide completion date at June meeting. There is a plaque missing for the Westfield River bridge. Might be a possibility for installing something generated by FOCGRT.

Western Ave: Coming in closer to budget. Bid documents to be submitted to state in June 2018. City Council to have second reading of easements. Construction could start in spring of 2019.

Chair (Joe Giffune)

Golden Spike contacted Joe about a presentation. Ashley volunteered to follow up. Noted that Eric Hall (Westfield Police) hasn't attended these meetings in some time, perhaps because of his promotion. Suggestion that we ask him if there might be an appropriate alternate. Carmel to contact Lt. Hall for input.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Giffune)

PayPal issues have been corrected. \$22,000 cash on hand. Raised \$1900 and spent \$2900 year to date.

Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashley Eaton)

Two signs are ready to be constructed at a cost of \$1600 each. Discussion about paying for signs. Motion by Begt to approve \$3500 for the signs, seconded by Alice. Motion passed. Discussion about Circuit City requesting a bike rack for in front of their business. The FOCGRT do not have any racks available and no one

was aware if other city departments have racks. Ashley to set up a meeting with business owners and Joe Giffune to discuss options.

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

DPW is looking into control options for area where erosion is occurring. Discussion about soliciting companies for donating bike repair stations. Westfield Technical Academy planted two replacement trees at Hedges Ave. Thank you note was sent to school. Bob attended a meeting with Southwick and Farmington Valley trail representatives. May 19 was count date.

Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Putting plans together for Thursday's on the trail starting July 10. Plan to have a table at Westfield Farmers Market. Discussion about who has the FOCGRT gmail account. Joe Giffune to send request to update account. Mike Young has volunteered to help with development activities (yeah Mike!!).

Westfield 350 (George Hart)

Subcommittee proposals reviewed and discussed. Discussion about Hedges Ave underpass painting. Westfield 350 Committee meeting on June 11 at 5:30 pm. Contact Carmel if attending.

Old Business:

1. Web site donation still an issue. Alice is looking into options.

New Business:

1. Kiwanas bike helmet donation discussion. Motion to approve \$300 donation by Don, seconded by Bob Pac. Motion approved (8 – yes, 4 – no).

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 18 at the YMCA. Note: Carmel and Chris will not be in attendance.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Bengt, second by Ashley, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.