

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2019

Call to Order

Chair/Vice Chair

Roll Call

Clerk

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman – Joe Giffune | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Membership – Donna Green | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bengt-Olaf Schneider |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – Carmel Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Education – Don Podolski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Bob Hamel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – | <input type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – John Tassinari |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk – Chris Steger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Reenie Hamel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large - Dan Call |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – Bob Pac | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Mike Young | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Cressotti – City Engineer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir. Of Maint – George Hart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At Large – Carolyn Cacolice | <input type="checkbox"/> Lt. Eric Hall - WPD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Bressler | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |

Meeting called to order at Westfield YMCA at 6:30 pm.

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

Westfield 350

Review of activities sponsored by the Board. List of those willing to volunteer was developed. Mayor's Bike Ride (May 13, 5:30 pm) – Reenie, Bengt-Olaf., New Horizons is willing to provide bicycles if people need them. Ride will include dedication of the Westfield River rail road bridge. Mark to provide Reenie with list of DOT people who should be invited. Joe will introduce Mayor for the dedication. Motion to approve up to \$50 for a cake for the event by Carmel, seconded by Dan. Motion approved. Reenie to send MJ Boll an invite. Yoga on the Esplanade – Carmel. Instructor provided by YMCA. Bike Rodeo – Carolyn. Police Cadets to lead. Trail Quest – Donna. Bike Valet – Donna. Motion made by Bob and seconded by Eric to put a donation bucket at valet and keep 100% of donations received from the bike valet. Discussion ensued concerning the 350th Committee's donation to FOCGRT to pay for valet. Motion passed.

Reports of City Officers (Mark Cressotti)

Central Section – DOT advertising date for bids should occur around June 30th. CPC provided additional funding for project. DCR grant is also possible. Bid documents continue to worked on.

Western Ave - Construction commencing soon. Trees to be removed and replaced at a 2:1 ratio. East section planned to be started in 2021. A public hearing on that

section will be in June or July 2019. Mark to provide the hearing date to FOCGRT members when available.

Lt. Eric Hall
No report

Chair (Joe Giffune)
Nothing to report

Vice Chair (Carmel Steger)
Received a notice for bike safety grants. Looking for persons to write a grant for a trail improvement. Confirmed the Board is insured for 350th activities. Circuit Coffee needs to get their "01085" bike rack installed. Carmel to contact DPW to determine how to make that happen.

Kate Phelon:
Review benefits of being a Chamber of Commerce member including press releases to members. Member events are on Chamber's web page.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Giffune)
Eric will be submitting 2018 taxes. \$19,000 in checking account. Profit and Loss year to date showed \$150 brought in and \$400 spent.

Director of Planning and Resources Report
No report

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)
See submitted report. Discussion about replacing Hedges Ave tree. Agreement to move donation money for tree to the general fund. Additional research done to find the best location for trail counters and they have been reinstalled. Research shows a factor of 1.3 – 2.7 is used when counting trail users. Bridge graffiti covered.

Director of Education
Discussion about Valley Bike Share. Discussion about how to get the Complete Streets Plan going again in Westfield. Peoples for Bikes has released a new free app which could be used to drive FOCGRT membership. Ridespot.org is the organization sponsoring it.

Director of Membership
Instagram launched (@columbiagreenway). Newsletter going out soon. May is membership month and looking to build the number of paying members. Trail t-shirts are available now (\$15).

At Large:
No reports.

Old Business:

1. E-Bike regulations for bike trails discussed. Appears Mass. will be following CT lead for regulating the bikes by either Class 1 or 2. Co-sponsored by Don Humanson and John Velis.
2. Westfield River Bridge plaque replacement.
3. Westfield Board of Health sign
 - a. Don and Dan met with the Board of Health
 - b. The sign will say No Smoking, curb your pet, helmets required for kids + other items.
 - c. It will also have the Board of Health and FOCGRT logos.
 - d. A draft design will be share with the FOCGRT board.

New Business:

None

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 16, 2019 at the City Hall, Room 315.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Don, second by Donna, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.