

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – John Tassinari | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir of Resource Dev – Jonathan McHatton | At Large – Open |
| <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 – Paul Cacolice | <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 | Kevin Bard - WPD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Ferguson | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Phelon – Chamber of Commerce |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Westerlind | | |

Meeting called to order.

Previous meeting minutes moved to approve by Bob H, seconded by John. Approved.

Reports of City Officers (Mark Cressotti)

- A. Greenway Central section is under construction. Orange Street bridge was last to come down. Work is progressing with completion in fall 2021. Discussion about adding a sculpture on the trail,
- B. Westfield River Levee trail public hearing to be scheduled for review of 25% design.
- C. Western Ave. project moving along and the next phase is progressing. Discussion about confusion on the concrete path being a sidewalk or multi-use trail. Members to send Mark ideas about how to visually highlight the trail as a multiuse path.
- D. Southampton Road Trail. Looking to get a proposal from the state of MA in June.

Kevin Bard

- A. Not present

Public Participation

Bill Westerlind – Working to get some murals painted along the trail corridor, maybe starting the second half of 2020. Still in conceptual phase with details to be developed with public input.

Chair (Carmel Steger)

Trail use is a safe way to maintain social distancing and still get a little exercise. Looking through information about native American signs and will update Friends with details. Earth Day in April 25th, looking for possible volunteers once the event is rescheduled. WSU students taking a marketing course on developing digital marketing needs for the trail. John Tassinari has volunteered to be FOCGRT Treasurer.

Vice Chair

Vacant position

Treasurer's Report (Carmel)

Balance sheet sent out.

Director of Planning and Development Report

Wayfair sign work is continuing.

Director of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

Monitoring discussion is city concerning which department will manage the completed trail. Monitoring and photographing the removal of rail bridges. Expressed concerns about art on the trail and vandalism.

Director of Education (Don)

No report

Director of Membership

One new family membership. Please continue to send rail construction pictures for online posting. Trail scavenger hunt promotion is ongoing. April 18th is national opening day for trails. Working on next newsletter. Attending WOW meeting concerning having a catered meal on the black bridge. Plans are tentative but dates could be August 21 or 23 from 6 – 9 pm. Ticket prices will be in the \$100 range and FOCGRT could be a beneficiary of profits. Bike week flyers completed.

Nominating Committee

John Tassinari has volunteered to be FOCGRT Treasurer.

At Large:

No comments.

GRR Update:

Planning proceeding.

Old Business:

May 9 was supposed to be Mayor's ride.
Looking into bicycle related movies at the Westfield library.
FOCGRT Board members' pictures – please to John.
Bike week is May 9 – 17, 2020. Need to start developing plans for events.

New Business:

None to report

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Greater Westfield YMCA or conference call.

Motion to adjourn by Bob P, seconded by John T, adjourned at 7:55 pm.