

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:31.

Present: Joe Giffune, Eric Bressler, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Ashely Eaton, Mike Young, Bengt-Olaf Schneider, Carmel Steger, John Tassinari, Dan Call, Mark Cressotti, Madison Babula

Guests: none

Previous Meeting Minutes: Dan Call moved to approve, Ashley seconded, motion passed.

Mark Cressotti/Westfield Engineering Dept.

Central Section: Public Informational meeting held on March 8, 2018 at City Hall, meeting to include design options for Elm Street bridge. FOCGRT should have a presence to promote rail trail completion, 75% completion design due in April 2018.

Coles Bridge in predesign phase. Probably will not include accommodating features.

City will be going to the CPC in March/April 2018 for design funds to complete the central section design.

Discussion about what is next after rail trail is completed. Potential routes being developed for off street and on street multiuse trails.

Western Ave project: Reviewing right of Way issues, additional funding is still an issue, 100% design plans to be submitted by April 1, 2018, targeting advertising in mid-2018 and starting construction in late 2018, eastern phase is looking to be 3 years out.

Chair/Vice Chair Report (Joe Giffune)

Will be meeting with Mayor to gift trail counters to City of Westfield, City Council then needs to approve. Board members decided not to take an advertisement out in Business and Industry Journal.

Treasurer's Report

An updated Profit and Loss sheet will be emailed to board members, 2018 II budget presented with a deficit of approximately \$1700, so far no fund raiser is planned for this year, motion by Carmel to approve the 2018 II budget, seconded by Dan, discussion about heritage signs and how they will be paid for, signs are estimated to cost \$5000, are there alternative funding sources just for sign installation?, vote to approve motion passed unanimously.

Director of Planning and Resources Report (Ashely Eaton)

Historical sign update: Native American signs were reviewed with the Westfield Historical Commission, Commission proposed some edits, artifact sign has been reviewed and approved, still investigating Bike Friendly Community details.

Director of Education and Research (Madison Babula)

10% response rate from postcards sent to city residents after two rounds of mailing, data will be reviewed in March and April, motion made by Eric to approve \$80 to cover additional postage costs, seconded by Dan, motion passed.

Director of Membership (Alice Flyte)

Continuing to build an email list for FOCGRT members, includes a \$150 business membership, give suggestions to Alice about businesses who may be interested, members agreed to provide at least one business name to Alice, the Membership Committee will draft a letter for businesses for review at next meeting, all FOCGRT board members agreed to sign up for at least a \$15 membership by March meeting, Alice will provide at March meeting the percent of board members who signed up, 15 bricks at \$100 each will make another impact.

Directors of Maintenance (Bob Pac/George Hart)

See report distributed with meeting agenda, Bob sent a slide presentation about rail trail advantages to board members, discussion ensued about what to do with the presentation, suggestion made to present the information to the Westfield Development Office to get feedback on who else would benefit, dog waste collection box at East Silver St. needs to be replaced, George to order a new one,

Old Business

- None discussed

New Business

- Golden Spike conference in Northampton July 27 & 28, Alice to send Chris details for distribution to board.
 - Here is the link for the Golden Spike conference July 27 and 28 at Union Station in Northampton.
www.gs2018.org
- George to check to see if the Westfield YMCA is available for the FOCGRT March meeting, another option may be Westfield Boys and Girls Club

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 20th, at YMCA

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Begt, second by Ashley, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Steger