

**Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.**

**Meeting Minutes, December 20, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

Present: Joe Giffune, Denise Begley, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, MJ Bull, Sandy Sorel, Don Podolski

Guest: Dan Call

Motion to approve meeting minutes from November 15, 2016, (Sandy motion to approve, Alice seconded).  
Motion passed.

Consent Agenda pull items:

none

City Engineering Report (via Joe):

1. January 9<sup>th</sup> is the L&O meeting to discuss complete streets initiative
2. MEPA review of central section of the Greenway Rail Trail due in January

Chair's Report:

1. Joe, Bob Pac, George Hart and Mark Cressotti met on the esplanade to determine location of signs, final installation in spring
2. Attended Mayor's city issues talk at senior center, received some feedback that senior citizens would like to see more break areas and some restrooms.
3. Still waiting for the Board of Public Works letter of support for installing black squirrel bike racks
4. Two temporary bike racks are ready for installation, Don Podolski brought one for show to meeting, these were donated by New Horizons bike shop with proceeds from Great River Ride (Thank You Don)

Treasurer's Report:

1. \$18,950 is the check book balance.
2. Web site updates complete and paid for (\$4000 +/-)
3. FOCGRT needs a brick and mortar address to complete filing with Commonwealth of Mass. For 501(c), will use New Horizons Bike shop address
4. Paid deposit for golf outing
5. Lap top computer issues prevented financial reports from being provided

Director of Maintenance:

1. Vandalism of newly installed items on the esplanade is occurring, city and police department have been notified
2. Attended WSU student presentations for conceptions on uses for the esplanade and other areas along the Westfield River (also attended, MJ, Don, Chris, and Alice)
3. Graphs reviewed comparing FOCGRT trail count to Farmington Valley auto counter
4. Motor cycle and snow mobile tracks observed on southern section of rail trail, notified PD

Director of Membership:

1. Facebook page has been changed to "Friends of Columbia Greenway, Inc", please log in and Like the site and share with others, events will be added as they come up,
2. Current mail list has been added to "Mail Chimp" for easier use in mailings including announcing the new Facebook page
3. Bike week is May 13 – 21, need ideas for promotion of the week, targeting Mayor's ride for Monday, May 15, 2017
4. Alice found a free web service (volunteersignup.org) for establishing a tabling schedule and for volunteers to man the tables

Resource Development:

1. Continuing to work on golf tournament, the date is Friday, June 23, 2017, contract has been signed with Shaker Farms, in need of a Co-Chair for this event since it is Sandy's last year leading it
2. Patrick is new contact for press releases at the Westfield News
3. Discussion about alternative fund raisers, is it possible to advertise on kiosks and charge money?

**Joe Giffune to check with City Attorney (Shana Reed) to see if this is possible.**

4. Brick campaign is continuing with people still buying bricks, one installation per year planned

New Business:

1. At Large position open on FOCGRT, discussion about filling position, Chris Steger made motion to nominate Dan Call, seconded by MJ. Discussion, motion approved.

**Joe to work with Sandy to develop a list of people up for election for January meeting.**

2. JTC meeting update provided by Dan Call, some discussion at meeting about future state funding
3. Franklin Street Repaving (Don P.), a five foot shoulder is currently planned for repaving this spring, Don proposed FOCGRT send a letter to traffic commission supporting designating this lane as a bike lane, motion for Joe to send a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors by Chris Steger, seconded by MJ, discussion, motion passed, next traffic commission meeting in January,

**Don to notify Board of Directors of date and location and time**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, Rinnova Building