

Friend of Columbia River Greenway Rail Trail Minutes - 06/20/2017

6:30 Meeting commences.

Sandy Sorel, Eric Bressler, Chris Steger, Bob Pac, George Hart, Joe Camerilli, Bob Burch, Don Podolski, Mark Cressotti, Beng-Olaf Schenieder, Alice Flyte

Absent - Joe Giffune, Carmel Steger, Dan Call, Alice Flyte

No Public Participation

Mark Cressotti : Thanked us for our support at last night's City Council Meeting

He is double booked for Wednesday night's meeting so he will not be there. Some board members will be in attendance. The \$250,000 would continue the design, but not complete it. It will require more funding as time goes along to complete. He estimates that by the third year it will take approximately 3 quarters of a million to complete the design work. 5 bridges are still involved. He explained the design procedures and that an outside company does the design. When the project is 100% complete we (FOCGRT) would be the entity to do the lighting, benches, additional landscaping, etc. Electric costs run approximately \$5500.00 per year for lighting. Mass DOT has been asking since November for answers about funding for design. (a revision with an updated cost estimate needs to be submitted). Monies for the Greenway was one of the largest recipients from the Patrick Administration. A discussion ensued as to whether we could approach various entities to help with funding of design for example grants. We will explore as many possible avenues as possible. Bridge over the river was questioned- the cost of the paint contractor was more than anticipated. The safety issue regarding the scaffolding has been of great concern and therefore it has caused delay.

Western Ave-met deadline-cost went up about 50%. It is one of the highest rated projects in the Commonwealth. It may have to be scaled back but is still on schedule.

Things that the board needs to do:

Job description for Ashley Eaton – Director of Planning and Development

Call to check on trail counters – PVPC - Jeff McCullough

Report: More Doggie bags are need for stations -
Motion made to approve \$40 for this, motion passed, Approved \$40.00
Trail Countb- May 20th- 7am-7pm (same day as Run Westfield) up 5% from
2016, 652 users -sent to Pioneer Valley Planning, Boston, Southwick and
Farmington Rail Trails. Bob handed out graph of types of users that made up
the 652.

Possibly will do a new count in September.

Sandy: Golf Tournament is Friday, Thanks to all who brought beer to support
the raffle. All is going ok so far.

Don P. Black Squirrel Bike racks- won't have any further information until
September. One way streets discussed at City Streets committee.

New Meeting place agreed upon- RE/MAX COMPASS ,108 Elm Street,
Westfield. Yes we can have food, beer, wine, etc.

September is the next meeting - unless another is necessary in July or
August.

Discussion about eliminating the Golf Tournament and replacing it with the
Great River Ride- FOGRT will assist and or observe this year. This is its 30th
year and can generate substantial fund raising dollars. Sandy thinks it is a
great idea- as do others. It is more in line with our mission.

Everyone will try to attend the City Council meeting .

Sandy asked about our Insurance- will check with Joe if paid.

John Tassinari - Can we add a cohesive map of Westfield & Southwick to our
Website. Bob Burch - says yes- cost of approximately \$150.00

Joe Camillari: WSU students conducting a Pilot study of residents knowledge
of the rail trail, will isolate questions to be asked of city residents.

Eric Bresslar: Commented on getting statistics about the Economic value of having a rail trail in the city. Sandy will try to get them from the RAPV (Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley).

Sandy will set up a meeting between Eric and Joe after the tournament settles.

Next meeting- Tuesday September 19th, 2017 at RE/MAX COMPASS, 108 Elm Street, Westfield

8:30 Motion to adjourn made by Sandy, second by Don

8:35 Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Sorel