

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on January 17, 2012

Roll call: members present - Louann Bianco, Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Christian Knapp, Noelle Korzenecki, Nancy Kotowicz, Jeff LaValley, Don Podolski, John Tassinari, Donna Tatlock-Calkins

Motion to accept the minutes of 1-4-12 meeting: motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Reports: Chairman, Jeff LaValley

- **A W9 form needs to be sent to Westfield State Foundation: given George Hart to do**
- **The city has received a state grant of \$1 million for the construction of the southern section of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail**
- **Update on the Southampton rail trail: 2009 feasibility study; determining the steps/process; they will attend our 1/26/12 event**
- **4 members attended a meeting sponsored by service organizations in Westfield for “A Shared Vision to Maximize the Benefits of Westfield’s Historical Resources”**
- **Info for at-large members: it was decided at the 1/4/12 executive board meeting that FOCGRT meetings would be held regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, but no meetings in July and August.**
- **There have been several articles in the Westfield News lately and also an article is coming regarding the grant the city is receiving!**
- **It was announced that city officials will attend the 1/26/12 event at Shaker Farms.**

Treasurer, Donna Tatlock-Calkins

- **Reported \$1,500.00 In deposits and Jeff had additional deposits and receipts**

Director of Education and Research, Don Podolski

- **Reported that at a 1/10/12 meeting at the library a new group formed to forward the initiative titled “Transforming Westfield and Creating a Sustainable Community”**

Director of Programs and Events, Nancy Kotowicz

- **The meeting regarding the golf tournament has been moved to 2/9/12.**

Mark Cressotti, City Engineer

- **This is a downtown revitalization project; cities need to become more desirable, i.e., live-work-play and to spend less on oil; the lieutenant governor will announce a grant at an event on January 24 in Springfield.**
- **He attended the Conservation Commission meeting where there was a good showing by the FOCGRT; there are evolving details of the project in preparation for the January 26 event; they are moving forward on the other (northern and central) segments.**
- **Joe Giffune asked about the distance where the southern section will end and Mark said that will be 500 feet before the Tin Bridge due to the work the Gas & Electric will be doing in that area.**

- **Jeff LaValley asked if we should keep in touch with any commissions and Mark said not needed at this time, wait 'til later.**

Old Business: Jeff LaValley reminded those who have not returned the Position Description and Conflict of Interest forms to do so to the clerk, and 3 members did so.

New Business:

- **It was suggested that we need to appoint a finance committee to review Jeff LaValley's and Chuck Weston's proposal for a budget. Motion was made to accept, seconded and passed unanimously. The names submitted for nomination were: Donna Tatlock-Calkins (Chair), MJ Bull, Joe Giffune, John Tassinari, Noelle Korzenecki and Kate Phelon (non-voting). Motion to accept was made to accept, seconded and passed unanimously.**
- **It was suggested that we also need to appoint a communications committee in order to launch our website. Motion was made to accept, seconded and passed unanimously. The names submitted for nomination were: Don Podolski, Christian Knapp, John Tassinari, Luann Bianco, Lisa McMahan, Noelle Korzenecki and Dan Hitchcock (non-voting). Motion to accept was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**
- **The subject of liability insurance for the FOCGRT directors was discussed with the following information: need to protect from lawsuits; after a conversation with a similar organization, they highly recommended DNO insurance; the average cost is \$1,800.00 per year for the entire organization; Don Podolski mentioned an added coverage that bears investigation; it was stated that action on this needs to be returned to the executive directors meeting and a motion to accept was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**
- **A gift processing policy was mentioned and tabled until a future meeting.**
- **Affiliate Organization Summary: check on liaison relationship; send Jeff LaValley a note if still involved.**
- **Donna Tatlock-Calkins suggested to hang a banner (if the city will allow) which says, "Bridges to Possibilities brought to you by FOCGRT" on the Main St. bridge; costs and using recycled banner (donations to be sought) was discussed.**
- **Jeff LaValley mentioned Matt Silecki regarding the logo: they have 10 possibilities to be presented and we'll wait for returns from Westfield Voc-Tech.**
- **It was stated that the total donations for the brochure were \$2,300.00.**

Public participation: none

Date for the next meeting: February 21, 6:30PM at Shaker Farms; all were reminded that assistance would be needed at the community information event on 1/26/12 as greeters, answering questions at tables, mingling, offering email info and asking for email addresses. Remember this event is an informational meeting so that people will know what is happening, so we will try to diffuse specific questions except on 3x5 cards on tables. Nancy Kotowitz announced that the next meeting for the Event Planning Committee would be on February 9, 6:30PM at shaker Farms.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.