

## **Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail**

### ***Minutes of the Meeting on January 20, 2015***

**Roll call: Clerk, George Hart** - members present: MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, Mark Cressotti, Diane Genereux, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Nancy Kotowitz, Jeff LaValley, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Jay Queenin, Eric Hall, Chris Stegr, John Tassinari

Jeff stated that Open Meetings laws will be followed.

Approval of Consent items: minutes of 12/16/14 motion to approve/seconded/vote passed.

**Reports of Directors** – vote approved to pull down of Shaker Rd. crossing

**Reports of city officers** – none

**Reports** –

1. Jeff L received an invitation to be a speaker on 4/11/15
2. he will update contact info
3. need new board members, email him any new suggestions
4. drafted board gift intention form: asked all to consider an annual dollar donation by March and goal is to have 100% donors; contact the Human Resource director of our employer for matching gifts
5. board expectations were given on hard copy handout
6. Treasurer's report: roughly \$20,000 in the account, so we're solvent and will have all detailed by Feb.
7. consent agenda regarding Shaker Rd.: Chris S asked what changes to the crossing? Jeff L said Bob Paul asked months ago and we haven't heard; others said yes this needs to be addressed; Mayor Knapik said no stop light, but will add lights to both sides of road and will move them and add striping; city will pay for extension of the trail to Country Club Rd. to add access to rail trail; Jeff L said long range goal is to change lights (he'll find memo regarding this); speed limit is posted at 30 mph and is a traffic commission ; asked Eric H if more enforcement and he'll recommend a light pole with mounted counter; Don P said there is a bike/pedestrian committee meeting next on Tuesday at 4:30pm

**City Engineer, Mark Cressotti** – state has granted city \$2M and process is bids for \$700,000 for bridge and tunnel; city is committed to spending all of the grant and will spend some on the northern section over the river (which is also \$2M); moving on 2 fronts and will achieve everything and could be post 6/30/15, so central becomes a true need, he said may not complete in 2015, north bridge funding in 2016, Jeff L asked about bricks/pavers for FOCG 'sponsorship' and Mark C said for us to go ahead with planning; Chris S asked what East Silver bridge will look like, Mark C said it will look same as previously; Mark C then said there will be no paving of trail between bridge and the tunnel and between tunnel and East Main St. now, but will as soon as possible which might not be until 2016 and the current grant money is going to north side section; Bob P asked about North Elm intersection development and Mark C said there will be a shared travel lane; Jeff L asked about status of Western Ave. and Mark C said there will be a public hearing; Bob P asked of route 187 intersection; Jeff L asked about a letter sent asking for response to redesign of Pleasant St. and Washington St. and Mark C said to resend the letter; Jeff L said Eric H left card with safety info to

businesses and FOCG can also give them out wherever; Chris S asked about emergency access to the trail.

### **Old Business –**

1. the mural is up and lighted on New Horizon store and a dedication will be planned in Spring.
2. elections: Joe C needs an update; Jeff L said we are left with the need for a vote and candidates are Alice Flyte, Sandy Sorel and Tina Mancusso, and he gave info for each.
3. tabled item 3

### **New Business –**

Trail Mixer and Golf Tournament – Jeff L will reach out; Nancy K suggested a change to golf tournament, that is, to hold in the pavilion with different time and food; Jeff L said 6 month planning is needed and he can't be as highly involved, so new leadership is needed; also suggested making it more family friendly (such as with Frisbee golf); Joe G said it is our prime fundraiser; Jay Q said our 3 year results are typical so we need to change to something else and/or a different tournament, and need to increase attendance; much discussion of increasing income and ways to make it.

Election vote results: Sandy S, Alice F and re-election of Bob P and Al G

Don P said W.O.W. is proposing to change their spring theme to promoting bicycling with active shows, bike builders, speakers – all with one per month, and to tie in with National Bike challenge with business teams, include a film festival, wine tasting bike ride (Northampton had 100 riders at theirs); there will be a meeting on February 6 at Clemenza's at noon and they must decide to proceed by March; MJ B asked about closing streets and Don P said they would remain open to all.

Mark Fenton event (Jeff L noted all info on a handout), but may need to change date due to WSU graduation; discussed assorted details and asked MJ B to check with WSU.

A community member asked if we have a position on the levy section enhancements with next section's money; this led to much discussion of state/ money/ use on levy/ if change is OK/ if G & E project is an impact/ FOCG may not need to take a stance/ have faith in our government.

Don P gave an update on Harold Murphy – land near the Tin bridge: Mark C wants it to be free camping area for incoming bikers.

Need to seek a new sponsor of trail due to MoFroYO closing.

Office space in Rinnova building; Jeff L and Joe G had a conversation with Bob Plasse and will follow up with him tomorrow.

Next meeting scheduled on 2/17/15

Motion to adjourn; seconded and vote passed.