

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on January 19, 2016

Clerk, Carla Gesek – Roll Call: Members present: Joe Giffune, Denise Begley, Carla Gesek, Jeff LaValley, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Sandy Sorel, Don Podolski, Chris Steger, Zach Swanson, John Tassinari

Joe G read open meeting laws.

Discussion regarding Mark Cressotti's reporting that work on the esplanade may start in 2016 through the winter and should be completed in 2017. The central area work to Stop & Shop should begin February 1st and August 30th 2017 – completion in 2018-2019.

Reports of Directors:

Chair - Joe G. handed out guidelines of where we are and where we should be.

Jeff and Joe continue working on the transition of leadership. They will meet with Mayor Sullivan to make a formal introduction of Joe as current chair. Joe has decided that Wednesdays are Friends day from noon to close.

Treasurer's Report presented by Joe G. Real income for the year was \$27,123.03 and expenses were \$27,655.19. The balance sheet isn't finalized but shows \$21,681.24 in cash. The golf tournament and brick campaign will create cash income.

This year's budget will be presented at the next meeting.

MJ Bull is working on UR Here signs. Update will be at the February meeting,

Any incidents on the trail should be reported to Sgt. Eric Hall. This could be stickers, graffiti or more. Stop and Shop covered up graffiti. Thanks were sent out.

Membership Alice F. Indicated that bike week is around Mother's day. She made a motion to amend the by-laws for budgeting to spend \$750 for decals and advertising. Sandy amended the motion to have the money spent in a one year period of time and John added to appropriate as soon as possible. The motion was voted on and passed.

Resource & Development Sandy S. reported on the gold tournament. It will be held at Shaker Farms on Saturday, June 18, 2016. Kasie P. is responsible for all raffle prizes this year. Ask letters will be created looking for sponsors and players. Last year's brochures are being updated for this year to keep costs down.

Communication - John reported that the Friends now has a laptop. The brick campaign has made \$1600 so far. He'd like to see more involvement with marketing. The website needs to be updated. The cost of website costs for 2 years is \$50.

Old Business

Jeff will be sending out communication on revising the by-laws.

Discussion of election of At- Larger member to the executive committee. Both Zach and Chris are interested in being considered for that position. Election of Connor Neylon-Jones as honorary member of the Friends. A motion was made, seconded and vote passed. Joe will contact Connor.

New Business – A motion was made, seconded, voted upon and carried to hold a formal reappointment of Ex Officio Members.

The National Bike Challenge will be held in conjunction with Bike Week. The National Bike Summit will be held in Washington DC from March 7th thru the 9th. Jeff L. will attend the 3-day event. There will be workshops, meetings with congressmen and networking.

There will be a formal handing over of the signs for the rail trail and photo shoot. The city must install the signs.

The city Planning Board meets 1/20/2016. The state created a score card and for that reason, the mayor wants a complete streets policy.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, vote passed.

Next meeting 02/23/2016