

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

02/21/2012 General Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: L. Bianco, M. Bull, G. Hart, N. Korzenecki, J. LaValley, D. Podolski, J. Tassinari, D. Tatlock-Calkins, S. Thomson, M. Cressotti, K Phelon, D. Call

Approval of Minutes : Minutes of the 1/17/2012 General Meeting were approved with no changes.

Reports

Chair: LaValley

- A number of press releases in regard to the FOCG group have been released and demonstrate the good relationship the group has with local media.
- Still waiting on the brochure. Once completed, we will do a press release.
- Jeff is looking for volunteers to attend the Mayor's monthly coffee hour which is at 8:00 AM.
- Jeff made a presentation on behalf of the FOCG to the Mayor's Youth Commission.
- A brochure is attached to the minutes for the upcoming Athenaeum event.
- Jeff asked Christine to work with the Westfield River shed Association in regard to FOCG having a table at their upcoming event in March.
- We will be having a table at the Noble 5K Road Race. Discussions in regard to potentially having us provide trinkets.
- FOCG received \$2,000 for the Local Arts Council Grant for a mural down town. We need to reach out to WSU and Scott Thomson will reach out to Marlene Desmaris of Columbia Manufacturing.

Vice Chair: LaValley on behalf of Giffune

- We need to start thinking of Bike Week events which the programming committee has begun to do.
- Representatives of FOCG attended the Southampton Friends group meeting. They are looking to work with us as a resource group to start theirs.

Treasure: Tatlock-Calkins

- January Checking Total is \$3583.12. We received a donation check from the WG&E for \$500.
- Discussed the upcoming Church of Atonement Strawberry Festival and how we can participate.

Director of Advancement: Bull

- Nothing to report at this meeting.

Director of Programs & Events: Farrell for Kotowicz

- 3/31, Informational Table at SFCC during the Easter Bunny visit.
- Community Days at the Bon Ton on April 27th and 28th. We have 150 coupon books that we sell for \$5.00 and we get to keep all of the proceeds from the sale. The following days are set for selling at the Bon Ton and volunteers are needed. Any one interested needs to contact Christine at specialheavy@comcast.net. The dates and times are:
2/28 4-6 PM
3/3 10-12 AM
3/10 10-12 AM
Christine also has books to and out to folks to sell on their own.

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- Planning on having a picnic in celebration of Bike Week at SFCC on 5/20 and discussed a potential bike rodeo. It was suggested that committee reach out to the Kiwanis to see if they are going to have one and if we can participate.
- The planned date for the Golf Tournament is 9/14.

Director of Education and Research: Podolski

- See New Business

City Engineer: Cressotti

- Project is out for bid. 2/22 will advertise for the bid. Bids to be opened on 3/9.

Mayor: Knapik

- Not in attendance

Old Business

Brochure & Logo

- No update, Jeff will communicate by email when they are ready.

D&O Insurance

- Tabled

Affiliate Partners Membership

- Kate Phelon of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce presented an opportunity for us to become a Micro Business member of the Chamber. The cost would be \$200 which would entitle the FOCG to numerous event opportunities and other items related to the Chamber. A motion was made by D. Catlock-Calkins and seconded to become a member. The motion passed with no descent.

New Business

At-Large Vacancy: LaValley

- Jose Roman, due to job change, has stepped down from his position. Per the by Laws, we are soliciting candidates which will be submitted to the board and voted on at the March Meeting.

Bicycle Friendly Community Program Podolski

- Don discussed the program and indicated that we meet most of the criteria to be deemed a bicycle friendly community. Don will work with the City Council to put through the resolution .

Nation Bike Summit in DC 3/20-3/22 Podolski

- Don will be attending this summit. A motion was made by to allocate \$475.00 for the registration fee. The motion was seconded and passed with no decent.

Signature(s) on Checks LaValley

- Discussed best practices for how many signatures should be on a check. A motion was made that for all checks over \$250 there should be two signatures on the checks. The motion was seconded and passed with no descent.

Event Recap: Public Information Session LaValley.

- Great event. Over 100 people in attendance. Raised over \$1750.

Meeting with the Southampton Rail Trail Committee LaValley

- Covered in the Reports above.

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Report of Finance Committee Tatlock-Calkins

- The Finance Committee reviewed the preliminary budget. All committees should submit their requests to the Finance committee to aid in drafting the budget.

Report of Communications Committee Podolski

- Presented their ideas for the web site. Discussed various options. A motion was made to appropriate \$120 to sign up for GoDaddy for the year. The motion passed with out descent.

Safety Issues & Concerns LaValley / Phelon

- We will work with community policing in regard to trail safety as we get closer to the design of the 2nd and 3rd phases of the trail.

Letter Writing Campaign/Congressman Neal LaValley / Phelon

- Folks should send out letters in support of the trail to Congressman Neal

2012 Bike Week Podolski

- See Committee Reports
- *Community Liaison(s) Update(s)*
 - Southwick* *Call*
 - Discussed pending legislation.
 - Southampton* *Buehler*
 - Not in attendance
 - Easthampton* *TBD*
 - Not in attendance

Public Participation

- None

Next Meeting

- *March 20, 2012, Shaker Farms Country Club, 866 Shaker Road, Westfield, MA*

Adjournment