

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail ***Minutes of the Meeting on February 17, 2015***

Roll call: Clerk, George Hart - members present: MJ Bull, Mark Cressotti, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Nancy Kotowitz, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Sandy Sorel, Alice Flyte, John Tassinari

Jeff L stated that we will forego Open Meetings guidelines. Also, welcome to new members: Sandy Sorel and Alice Flyte. He said he will give a handout for consent agenda format.

Motion made to approve January minutes, seconded, vote passed.

Asked if any reports to pull off for discussion (None). Motion made to approve, seconded, vote passed

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

City Engineer, Mark Cressotti – mayor will advertise all of the contracts (completing trail from E. Silver to Main St.) and the levy so completion of this section of trail will be in 2015, but be aware of timing changes; a metal fence and lighting will be included; will do a ride on the trail to decide on signs. Jeff L asked about Shaker Rd signs; Mark said will be scarified ribs on pavement, changes to pavement on crossing and Don P said it could be a hazard to road bikes especially if wet; flashing signs on road and trail will all be solar powered; multi use on South side of Shaker Rd. to be advertised by mid-April; will do a ‘connector’ to Country Club Dr. (west of the trail)

Reports of Directors –

Reports of committees were not submitted

Don P attended a senate listening tour summit; 2 cycling bills – FOCGRT sought co-sponsorship from local state representatives (Rep. John Velis & Sen. Don Humason).

Jeff L – Feb. 26 Pioneer Valley changes of MA bike mtg. At Paragon Mill in Easthampton at 8-9:00pm with new bike director, Richard Freeze

Old Business –

1. Proposed 2015 budget on handout and it is proposing income and expenses as printed. MJ Bull proposed increasing expenses for trail enhancements for signage; Jeff L proposed to table this until Joe G is here in March; motion made, seconded, vote passed.
2. interpretive signage: MJ Bull met with G. Ramirez who did a layout of format and she passed it around so we could all see it; proposed church steeples be used and asked for input regarding all churches (and on a handout), symbols, spires; Sally M suggested we meet with Bob Dewey regarding historical founding ethnicity; Jeff L suggested a genealogical person at Springfield Museums; MJ Bull said process is A. include city logo (Demetrios suggested to put it in background art screen), Jeff L. is working on a grant (and got a \$2500.00 grant and have one year to complete) and is working on two others, C. MJ Bull gave added details

(which G Ramirez will share at FOCG March mtg) and mentioned trail rules, police requirements, pet ordinances, D. third panel for advertising

New Business –

Jeff L referred to WOW choice of bike as theme; starts with April 10 dedication of mural; need help; next planning mtg. on Feb. 27 at noon at Clemenza's; MJ Bull has a student interested in involvement (and is very talented), and WSU students proposed to have monthly events.

Don P explained ideas of challenges at no cost by groups and FOCG should sponsor, he'll follow up in March; also, need to get designated route from end of our trail to Southampton; Jeff L said we should send it to city and Don P will have info for March mtg

Jeff L referred to hosting Josh Simpson: replace, season timing, costs, committee proposal, redesign FOCG website; he then proposed to table this; Sandy suggested WVTHS students to help with our website; MJ Bull and Jeff L discussed scheduling in fall for Mark Fenton involvement

National Bike Summit: we cover fees to attend in Washington DC. Don P said registration is \$499.00; dates are March 11 and 12; two way train cost is \$135; motion to cover registration for two, seconded, vote passed.

Jeff L led a conversation regarding moving FOCG location to the Rinnova Building (this was all on a handout and he listed others); rental fee is \$300.00 per month and is negotiable with WOW; others said unknown hours open; great location; no employee needed to be paid; exhibit of kids pictures of favorite places on trail; possibility of music; are other non profits being asked?; \$300.00 is a high amount; could we rent bikes and make available to rent, but this is difficult because of insurance; proposed \$200.00 offer with a kickout clause at 6 months.

Jeff L stated a possibility of a video education event: Rick Saloomey has a background in film and TV, so he could produce anything and education was first idea for video; Jeff L said we could do a mock up of the not yet constructed trail section; MJ Bull suggested it could be taken to schools; Jeff L said he will send an email

Jeff L got an email from Diane G regarding stepping down from FOCG, so: A. fill it, or B. replace/refill her at-large position, or C. ask for volunteer and got none; Jeff L referred to FOCG bylaws that state 7 at-large members; did prior vote to switch Sally and Nancy's positions; need a treasurer

Golf tournament – Sat. June 20, completed by 2:30 to encourage more players; another mtg Thursday at 6:30pm at Shaker with new members; currently have 7 foursomes; all need to get sponsor or foursome or prize donation; golf show March 7 at Tekoa and will share a table with SFCC

Jeff L got an invite to a health fair, but most said not right fair for FOCG because will be at WSU a month later; river symposium on April 4

Next meeting scheduled on 3/17/15 at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn; seconded and vote passed.