

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on February 23, 2016

Roll call: (by George Hart in Clerk's absence) - members present: Joe Camilleri, Denise Begley, MJ Bull, Alice Flyte, Al Guagliardo, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Bob Pac, Kasey Provencal, Zack Swanson, Sandy Sorel, John Tassinari

Joe G read open meeting laws.

Chair Report: Joe G

- asked Joe C about the Complete Streets meeting and Joe C said no report yet.
- Also reported that the electronic vote on spending \$675.00 for B.N.I. was approved.
- Sandy S stated B&I will be published on 3/28/16.
- Planning for a workshop with B.I.D. on getting businesses involved in order to get people off the rail trail and into downtown businesses.

Kasey Provencal: noted growing the rail trail for many uses and to be a catalyst for change.

Treasurers Report: Denise B is absent and Joe G presented the report on a hand out, then said to see Joe if any questions. Joe G also gave hand out on the 2016 proposed budget and to review it and get back to him with any questions or ideas.

Director of Planning and Development: MJ Bull

- working on signs for kiosks – rules, you are here, info on FOCG, another with ‘visitors tours’; she is working with George Ramirez on this.
- Joe G said a letter was sent to Mayor Sullivan on this.

Co Directors of Maintenance: Bob Pac and George Hart – all on a handout

John Tassinari: reported on the Western Ave. public meeting – more people are in favor and citizens are more educated on the project.

Director of Membership: Alice Flyte

- all is on a handout: including a membership application and a small survey
- gave samples of window stickers
- in the March meeting will add ideas for bike week events; MJ B said WSU students will help; Joe C asked for members to help Alice with membership tabling and Al G offered to help lead this; Joe G asked us to remind him to bring business cards; Sandy S said tabling at the Easter Egg Hunt may be an idea; Alice said to wear board member card on front of shirts; Zack asked about working with local businesses to come up with ways to reward trail users for using local business and Joe G asked him to write out notes on ideas

Director of Resource Development: Sandy Sorel

- golf tournament is 6/18/16; try to get sponsors; sponsors have started to come in; etc. re: lunches / ideas on different connections, not pictures to fundraise and cover cost; Al G has reached out to a title sponsor
- Sandy said brochures handed out at golf forum (cost of \$90.00) from 9:00am to

4:00pm; has flyers but wants to wait for key sponsors

- Kasey P is taking over the raffle prizes

- people are taking brick flyers; table on 3/18/16 at Chamber of Commerce breakfast

- fundraising: Children's Museum wants to offer a discount to kids coming in off the bike trail; Joe G asked her to check the budget for golf tournament

Brick Campaign: John Tassinari

- he has sold 20 bricks and raised \$2700.00; asked to communicate back to him regarding wording; Joe G requested status of bricks; will we be

want to be ready when they start work; check with any / all family & friends to purchase bricks. Joe G said we're updating our website and worried that email might be getting deleted; \$4500.00 in budget to update

Reports of City Officers: none present

New Business: Jeff L emailed Joe G, but this is tabled until March

Friends from other communities: Southwick

- they are interested in "going in with us" with bike week events; Mayor Sullivan is interested; kids 7/4/16 event to pull Westfield and Southwick together on a decorated bike ride (flags, bubbles, ¼ 'tatoos') with a rain date of 7/5/16; will email FOCG with additional ideas for joint events; others have offered to help; restaurants are willing to participate, a ride from Miller Rd to CT – changing it to from Shaker Farms CC to CT; also a bike poster month for all grades (prizes from Summer House); noted a NH to Northampton event for others in collaboration; an idea – for National family fitness on 9/14/16 of a team obstacle course on the trail, with other ideas of family (by ages) run and bike event; Joe G said to continue discussing and report back.

Bob Pac – dogs are 'using' the trail and we need more bags

John Tassinari – questioned about

a. our stand on a repair station: Waiting quotes

b. budget on the trail counter: Joe G said we have a grant and gifting procedure

c. more on installation by city

Joe Giffune – the board needs to know we aren't in good standing with the state because some things weren't done correctly and we didn't file taxes until December and he asked if we know of an accountant to help. There are no 'issues' but stuff needs to be cleaned up. John T asked if this relates to our 501c3 and Joe G said no.

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

Next meeting 3/15/16