

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on March 18, 2014

Roll call: **Clerk, George Hart** - members present: MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, David Carlin, Mark Cressotti, Diane Genereux, Hannah Giffune, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Jay Queenin, Chris Stegr, John Tassinari

Motion to accept the minutes of 2-18-14 meeting was made and seconded, vote passed

Public participation: none

Reports of city Departments:

Mayor: not present

City Engineer: Mark C – construction has begun, removed Dry Bridge; give him any comments of Gold St. residents (they have complained of their loss of vegetation), he asked us to communicate with them (Joe G will relay this to Jeff); the Columbia Greenway North will “trim sails” to the north or delay until 2017; central section is in TAP funds; still trying to push for levy along the river to be for combined use; Joe G said we need to stay active and asked if there is anything we can do (take a position), Mark said the state received a high # (20) of supportive comments; stated that federal highway \$ for enhancements now is for improvements, and he explained further numerous details on state funds; currently \$2.2 million is earmarked for the North section which is the bridge over the river and 200 feet of trail which is to be done in 2015 and \$2.8 million is needed; and there is not much the FOCG can do to help/change; the central section will be \$6.7-6.8 million; the dept. of transportation wants to address Western Ave. (to be discussed later in this meeting); Joe G asked how to open kiosks and Mark said to get requests to him; Bob P asked if volunteers from MoFroYo can do more than liter patrol and Mark said not without city approval; Bob said they are doing only liter patrol now in full compliance; Bob then asked about Southwick plowing the trail to the Rail Trail parking lot above Shaker Farms CC and the Southwick representative said no one has been given approval to do this.

Reports of Directors and Committees:

- Chair, Joe G for Jeff L: Joe referred to Jeff’s email of a handout list (GHart did not receive it and will include it when received) [as of 3/27/14 I still haven’t received this]
- Vice Chair, Joe G: he, Bob P and Jeff L attended the construction design meeting and stated it was excellent; mentioned the golf tournament needing many to assist; also looking for Trail Mixer event volunteers to assist Joe C and this needs to begin planning in 2 weeks; mentioned need to do tabling at the Westfield 5k run on May 26 and need FOCG people to serve and to sell ourselves; Don P mentioned the Walk/Run Westfield event on May 23 or 24 and that we should table during this at WSU’s Woodward Center from noon to 8:00PM; Chris S suggested to put a request onto our website so people can volunteer on the website; kiosk signage – Joe G proposed to designate \$ for less permanent nature, motion was made to designate \$500.00 for this, motion was seconded and vote passed; to be used at discretion of the chair.

- Treasurer, Joe G (interim due to Mike F having stepped down and Joe stated there are no changes to this): year to date - \$2700.00 has been spent (including \$1500.00 down payment on the golf tournament, \$200.00 income; if interested in financial document, Joe passed it around but not comfortable making it public; we have resolved the PayPal problem.
- City Engineer, Mark C: Western Ave. – a \$1.5 million bump related to improvements, but it's not enough; region is required to do TIP for 3 years and Western Ave. is not on it at all; he gave some explanations of details on the project of about (\$100 million), no 25% design yet, but will in April, which is 3 months earlier than previously expected; more discussion of lack of politicians (mayor, city council) support of designated multi use 'trail', Joe G suggested a meeting to clarify and Joe said we'd throw this to Jeff to set out dates and we'll send ideas to Mark in advance.
- Director of Advancement, Al G: (absent) none
- Director of Education and Research, Don P: he attended the bike summit in Washington DC: put a video from Utube on our website; how others were building membership; encouraged diversity of riders thus encouraging safety, low key bike oriented events; history of UK cycling and advice to get a mayor who rides; met with McGovern and others who supported biking issues, pushed for a bill to encourage bike safety; illustrated on line info re bike lanes; reminded us of bike week.

Joe C: address research needs and suggested to have a WSU student intern to address trail needs (see email) re health psychologist and he'd work on creating a position. Bob P asked when would we see results? Joe G said we are in need of a motion and MJ B made a motion to create a position, motion seconded and vote passed. Don said he talked to a new city official.

- Directors of planning and Development, Diane G and MJ Bull: MJ discussed what bicyclists and drivers must do in regards to crosswalks, etc. and Mike Jocelyn is working on the 4 subjects; she asked if we received the RFP on her handout (she gave us copies) regarding historical sign designs; need a motion to proceed with RFP, motion made, seconded and vote passed.

Diane: none

- Director of Communication, John T: our website was down due to non payment, but now is paid and the website is back up; he offered to test new web design.
- Director of Maintenance, Bob P: none

Old Business:

- Table position description until next month's meeting.
- Jeff and Don were nominated for 2 volunteer of the year awards
- League of American bicyclists: motion made, seconded, vote passed

- Renew PO box: motion made, seconded, vote passed.
- Join Mass Bike at \$450.00: motion made, seconded, vote passed.
- We need a budget!
- Jeff saw in Boston: bicycle benefits – sticker on helmet gives discount in area businesses and to put onto our next month's agenda.
- Creation of an awards program: we should do this so that it goes to a pedestrian advocate – supportive comments from Jay and MJ; Joe G supports it and that it should go onto next month's agenda; Don noted to call it Pope award after a person who was a pioneering advocate.
- Joe G suggested we create and enter an insert in WEN (for golf tournament, etc.) at a cost of \$600.00 for 4 pages and may cover cost with advertising to do self promotion and it goes to 6,000 homes, another motion to spend up to \$600.00, discussion, motion made, seconded, vote passed. Jeff will send emails and be sure to be selective on day of week (Mon. – Thur.)

Community Representative: from Southwick – they will send email regarding casual gathering to be held on April 12, 2014 at the Miller Rd. parking area near Red Riding Hoods Basket; trail counts are coming maybe during bike week; Joe G said Hannah has an idea to do a kids trail run and may be interesting to start an inter-city or family or relay; Southwick is doing a tag sale on May 17, 2014 at Depot St. and will email us; Joe asked her to send email regarding Western Ave. questions and support of safety items.

Next meeting: April 15, 2014 6:30PM

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded, vote passed