

## **Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail**

### ***Minutes of the Meeting on March 31, 2015***

**Roll call: Clerk, George Hart** - members present: Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Bob Pac, Kate Phelon, John Tassinari, Sandy Sorel, Alice Flyte

Joe Giffune: called meeting to order

**City Engineer, Mark Cressotti** – out to bid again on next section; transition to urban with lights and wood fencing to replace the metal; time frame is end of April for end of rebidding; construction activity on bridge and underpass will begin in May; rebid work will not be done by June 30 but by end of summer.

**Old Business** – Joe G apologized for speed of the decision with WOW regarding use of the Rinnova Building, he got interest in the space but not \$300.00 per month rent, got it for \$50.00 per month; it is on the table if lease/contract will include office space and access throughout the month; future cost per month is not yet determined, but we're not ready for \$300.00; will get signage and merchandise sale ability; board members need to formulate the benefits: improve downtown foot traffic; Joe G asked if anyone wants to oppose its use for a three month trial and said we need to see if \$3,600.00 per year is worth it and we'd have to raise more funds (grants/sponsorship), and we are at an advantage with WOW, at end of three months we'll need to decide.

- proposed budget: tried to come up with rules: ie, 15% of income is net; spend 20% of \$2,200.00 on trail enhancement; Joe G noted ideas/plans/create framework/build grant income; Peoples Bank is proposing \$6,000.00 funding to FOCG and will reply to us in mid-May!

- Kate P stated they and other non-profits get copies from WSU for low prices, so call Ryan Cramton (572-5247). Joe G asked if any other questions and this (on a handout) will be a guideline. He asked for a motion to adopt the proposed budget, motion made, seconded, vote passed.

- Mark Fenton event: tabled but MJ and Jeff L are aiming for Sept.

**New Business** – item #1: Grant Requests & Proposals received: Peoples Bank; interpretive signage; C & S will fund \$250.00 of \$1,000 for one trail counter; Jeff L called by phone to ask about doing tabling at the Westfield 5K road race and needs someone to contact Noble regarding this – Bob Pac said he would. - item #2: website redesign: two proposals (in handout from march 17 meeting) high cost is \$2,00.00 and \$25.00 per month maintenance (because \$750.00 was donated by Bob Burch of Bright Cloud Studios); John T discussed updates; Kate P explained Chamber's website and noted their professional who is great, she said to get it done now with high price package; Bob P asked to get him to a mtg. to explain options, Joe G will get his request back to Jeff L to invite him.

- item #3: Brick campaign: John T explained opportunity, Laurie Fay of West Springfield get the word out regarding brick options, her cost would be \$12.00 per brick, stated that Jeff L proposed to do this on north side in Temperance Park, she needs knowledge of type of brick and Mark C has to check on legal issues, everyone agreed it's a great idea.

- item #4: fundraising initiatives:

- a. Sally M – Joe G asked for details; Pro-Tour and Cruises (on handout) for luncheon Bingo game at Louie B's Lakeside on 5/2/15; John will post it on our website
- b. Amazon Smile – assorted opposition because of small business conflicts; Joe G said we should wait to decide until Jeff L is here; tabled a vote until next mtg.

c. Pedalpalooza also tabled.

d. need to ask city of the rest of right of way for rail trail and its maintenance.

- item #5: Kate P stated she attended a national event regarding the Erie Canal and asked at it about making downtown bike friendly; noted assorted people to invite at a round table event to complete surveys regarding bike friendly rail trails with economic impact and Chamber of Commerce is interested in hosting this; John T asked about Mark Fenton being 'involved'; Joe G said the more FOCG can engage with Chamber the better!; Kate will send info to Jeff L, Joe G suggested we pick dates and plan further discussions.

- item #6: George H noted that Jeff L asked him to remind us of the National Bike Challenge and if we plan to enter a FOCG team it must be submitted by this Friday.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, vote passed.

Next mtg. 4/21/15 and next golf mtg. 4/16/15