

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on March 17, 2015

Roll call: Clerk, George Hart - members present: MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, Al Guagliardo, George Hart, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Jay Queenin, Chris Stegr, John Tassinari, Alice Flyte

Jeff LaValley: called meeting to order and called for motion to approve January minutes, motion made, seconded, vote passed. Asked for directors reports – Don Podolski asked to make a spelling change of name of author: motion made to approve, seconded, vote passed

City Engineer, Mark Cressotti – bids opening on Thursday for overlooks; bid opening next Thursday for bridge and underpass; trail on levy out for bid in approximately a month; sent letters to secretary of transportation; opening bids on North Elm; restriping of Court St., Washington St. and Franklin St.; moving bike lane at Washington St. intersection; Don P noted questions regarding changes.

Public participation - later

Reports of Directors –

Jeff LaValley - Chair: none due to work, then extended an apology about the decision on change of mtg. location.

Joe Giffune – Acting Treasurer: presenting at Westfield River Watershed Association on 4/11/15; need to pay for GoDaddy website; League of American Bicyclists has been paid; budget is now down \$2,200.00 from last year.

MJ Bull – Director of Planning: info is on the agenda

Al Guagliardo – Director of Advancement: noted golf tournament donations and has questions about the changed date/conflicts.

Sally Memole – Director of Outreach: wants to find out about police; is running with a photo contest (kids take pictures of Rail Trail, then we need prizes)

Don Podolski – Director of Education and Research: good DC event, reauthorization of transportation bill, bill on vision of \$30M budget; senate was asked for transportation alternatives; Markey will reintroduce national streets bill; attended crowd funding; outside organization wanted to set up bike rodeo but current logic is they're ineffective; Motion to support Pedalpolozza and all board need to get sign ups online, no cost, promotion on our website and will have access to all to solicit support; motion to accept, 2nd, vote taken and passed.

Awards committee: Colonel Pope and Trail Blazer, nominations due by 4/1/15

Jeff L initiated bylaw review committee to look at our bylaws and to update, he asked Alice F, John T and George H to serve; he will send them old ones and suggestions, asked them to get back to the board by summer.

John Tessinari: save to later

Golf Tournament: Al G asked about change to 8/29/15; Jeff L said it was moved because of 2 other tournaments (one being Bard family); next meeting on 3/19/15 at Shaker Farms; Chris Stegr suggested a bike element and option of eating only.

Old Business – move item 4 on handout list: Bill Madison: developing interest in canal -> rail trail, showed book he wrote regarding the 16 towns the rail trail goes through, including description of trail, maps, history, off trail excursions, and source notes (will mail to ROCG website); making us aware and wants to be a member of our organization; needs a ‘blurb’ on the history of our board; Bob Pac said he’d like a long time member to write the blurb. Mark Cressoti said Northampton is trying to advertise of rail trail across New England, so attending the pedestrian – bike committee.

Item 4: MJ Bull mentioned last mtg. re signage, noted changed image and named church same and add city seal, sent around samples of signs; George Ramirez noted pricing and difficult to prevent vandalism and suggested including \$ in budget for upkeep, Express Sign is all aluminum and West Springfield Sign Design is fiberglass, price is \$250 per sign to install, Mark C noted need approval from city council due to other aspects, size is 24” x 36”, discussion of size/price/number/locations, ACE is \$1,200.00 per sign; Express is \$1,380.00 per sign (need clarifying); WS is \$1,580.00 per sign including mounting – all are a total of 8 signs; need decision on aluminum or fiberglass; Mark C asked about EOEA logo. The WS was recommended. Jeff L asked of the National Park Service recommendation. Regarding the kiosks: still sorting out on maps (size/content/Chapman field/etc.). Jeff L said to email suggestions to MJ Bull

New Business – item #1: interruptive signage – we submitted a grant application for trail sign and Peoples Bank was interested and wants to know if their logo could be included and with exclusivity; Joe G suggested not to include logos because signs should be art only.

- Also, submitted 2 other grants and won’t hear until end of April; much discussion followed re decision to go back to Peoples Bank re their logo on several kiosks;

- tabled donations for memorial bricks due to Mark C need law dept. approval;

- Mark Fenton: national expert on walkability – MJBull said WSU 3 depts. are able to get funds (\$2,000.00 - \$2,500.00) toward his present fee for workshops etc. to promote healthy lifestyles and we need to get local business owners to attend; we need to get much involvement from community groups and get them engaged.

- Jeff L got interest from Kate Phelon to conduct round table events for business community

- Joe G said this event is a way to get community interested and involved; others noted our costs for advertising, getting him downtown with business owners for workshops; cheap cost for us and great for education; motion was made for us to commit \$1,500.00 for the event, discussion, 2nd, vote taken, vote passed.

- John T suggested a separate budget mtg.

- Jeff L stated we are open to suggestions and got one for a special mtg. in 2 weeks and he stated the bylaws and got a motion, 2nd for an additional mtg. on 3/31/15, vote passed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, vote passed.