

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Joe Giffune, Denise Begley, Jeff LaValley, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Sandy Sorel, Bob Burch, Don Podolski, Chris Steger, Zach Swanson, Mark Cressotti

Meeting minutes from February, 2016 approved (motion: Sandy, second: Alice)

Consent Agenda:

Pulled items, rail trail counting, mile markers.

Mark Cressotti Report:

1. Bicycle friendly longer term plan maps distributed for review and comment showing on road, off road, and point of destination routes, need to start considering "what is next" after the Westfield portion of the rail trail is complete.
2. City Bicycle/Pedestrian subcommittee submitted report recommending Complete Street Policy to full City Council. Currently residing with City Public Health and Safety Committee.
3. Central section funding identified, possibly ready for bid fall 2017.
4. North Section: ready for final bid review. Construction to start spring 2017 +/-.

Sgt. Hall (via Alice):

Community Police group looking to team up with Rail Trail group to hand out flyers in Stop and Shop parking lot during bike week. Raise awareness of bicycles and rules of road. Trail incidents need to be reported to Westfield PD. City Ordinance for Rail Trail use in process.

Chair Report: City Council accepted signs. Installation should follow in short time.

Treasurers Report: about \$22,000 in bank account, a budget has not been developed yet, some money has been received for golf outing, brick campaign up to \$2600.

Dave Kurburt(?): public participant, commented on interest in work of group.

Maintenance: March 9 informal rail count showed 120 trail users in 3(?) hours. In 2015 161,000 trail users were counted at the MA/CT border, mile markers in Westfield will continue from CT and Southwick. PVPC asked if Greenway Rail Trail in Westfield can be used in a user count, all agreed.

Membership: May 14 – 22 is Bike Week, suggested activities were proposed, kick-off for public meet and greet would be May 17 at 5:30 pm at Westfield Library followed by a Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail board meeting.

Golf Outing: Date is June 18. Sponsors are coming in, talk to Sandy for flyers to broaden distribution, need raffle prizes and foursomes, there will be a table at the March 18 Chamber breakfast to advertise the golf outing.

New Business:

1. Suggestion was made by Don P. to investigate if a bicycle ride fundraiser would be appropriate, suggested some board members sign up for a ride to see how it all works, Joe will circulate local ride information from Don P.
2. Elm Street bridge rehabilitation is in the early planning phase, this is an opportunity for the Friends to be involved in the bridge design decisions and to have central section input, interested Board members should contact Joe ASAP.
3. Automatic trail counters are still being investigated, will require capital expenditure, various types are being investigated and a recommendation will be made to the entire board, focusing on the type that can distinguish the difference between user types.
4. Additional historical signs have been suggested focusing on Native American heritage, locations are being investigated and development and installation costs need to be determined.
5. MJ's WSU students are planning to survey rail trail users this spring, if you have suggested questions send to MJ.

Motion by Don P. to adjourn, seconded by Bob Pac. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.