

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on April 17, 2012

Roll call: members present - Louann Bianco, MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, Alan Guagliardo, George Hart, Nancy Kotowicz, Jeff LaValley, Don Podolski, Noreen Tassinari

Motion to accept the minutes of 3-20-12 meeting: motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Reports: Chair, Jeff LaValley

- Circulated a card of thanks for Lisa McMahon; announced a meeting of WHIPP, which is a good fit with us as in email, MJ Bull and Joe Giffune will attend; last meeting info re city council meeting (re: Resolution in Support of Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails, and Safe Routes to School); need help distributing flyers; assistance needed tabling for Noble Run on 4/28/12

Treasurer, Mike Fournier

- Shared balance sheets; requested computerized checks with logo (this was tabled until we have logo); we need to get the budget from Finance Committee; requested to see the 990 which Scott Thompson has

Director of Advancement

- note that Jeff and MJ submitted re church of Atonement Strawberry Festival for FOCGRT to be recipient of funds and if we are chosen, we will need to sell tickets and staff the event; if anyone has contact with Neighbor to Neighbor group, please contact Jeff; thank you for responses to request for donations as we have received donations from 52% (up from 36%) of the board members

Director of Programas and Events, Nancy Kotowitz

- golf tournament, bike week 5/20/12, Bon Ton – all discussed later, but noted that the still to be named bike week event will be at the Shaker Farm CC pavilion and will include a unicyclist, a DJ, food and a raffle.
- Joe Giffune requested to have the bike at the Noble event on 4/28/12; to add to our email contact list
- George Hart will contact Columbia for a bike donation

Director of Education and Research, Don Podolski

- Reported on the bike summit: 850 participants; workshops on building partnerships; 3 major groups to merge next fall and affiliate with other bike associations; interest...document is on internet...; possibly create a national bike museum in Boston OR WESTFIELD!!;4/30/12 bike week meeting and poster/t-shirts available; ID has been located for 20 bike racks; sustainable bike corridor to have communities have more input – to be 5/22/12 at Athanaeum – fits in with FOCGRT; events for bike week in Westfield every day, including a Mayor's and officials' ride and all others listed and to be posted on our website.

Director of Planning, Maintenance and Development

- Landscape plans for the first piece's construction
- Joe Giffune suggested involving Westfield Voc Tech for signage, machining, woodshop and plant seed with designer (David Paine); Joe G also noted that groups get set for maintenance within 90 days so people get invested in caring for ongoing needs (including costs, and the FOCGRT role)

Assistant City Engineer, Heather Miller

The city is in close contact with engineers and contractor on a daily and weekly basis re the first phase project; she was asked about schedule and stated that only a couple of minor bumps, so looks to be staying on scheduled, and when asked when they will be getting into neighborhoods, she said they will meet with each neighborhood with contractor and the city – a mailing will go out in advance of meetings.

Reports of Committees

Bike Week: prior covered and need volunteers (Jeff asked for a list of needs)

Golf Tournament: flyers are ready; proposed budget was distributed on handout; silent auction should be tripled to \$4,500; Shaker Farms CC is charging FOCGRT only \$50-55 per player for golf/cart/lunch/dinner (Jeff will readjust for Thursday meeting); next meeting is 4/19/12 at 7:00PM a chef will be available before for dinner orders!

Website/communications: columbiagreenway.org; John Tassinari is updating pictures daily; suggested to include on facebook; John is looking into a business page

Mural Project: is moving forward; meeting is scheduled at WSU to get historical ideas

Old Business

- Bon Ton: not finalized because books are still out and need them returned this week
- Logo; committee is meeting 4/19/12 at 5:30PM at 470 Southampton Rd.; this is pro bono by Tina Stevens, so by next meeting in May will hopefully have a design

New Business

- Ex-Officio Members; consider giving them voting powers, initial rationale was for this group to be voluntary; asked for thoughts on this – what are the pros and cons? If outside (ex-officio) members vote they could take over – suggestion to keep the same; this was tabled
- New Board position of Immediate Past Chair: advisory role to offer advise and be non-voting ex-officio; something to look forward to and we need to decide soon.
- G & E inserts: during August (handout with info on FOCGRT and upcoming events) suggestion to align website and _____ addresses.

Community Liaisons Updates

- none

Public Participation

- Dave DiSessa expressed interest in becoming more involved
- Dan Kotowicz showed example of bike rack and is producing a sign for front entrance to the trail (at SFCC)
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Next Meeting: 5/15/12, 7:00PM at Shaker Farms CC

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.