

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail

Minutes of the Meeting on April 15, 2014

Roll call: **Clerk, George Hart** - members present: MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, Heather for Mark Cressotti, Diane Genereux, Joe Giffune, Al Guagliardo, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Chris Stegr, Dan Allie

Motion to accept the minutes of 3-18-14 meeting was made and seconded, vote passed

Public participation: Jacob Ford, who moved onto Gold St. a few months ago, is interested in connecting with FOCG. Joe G gave him a synopsis of our role and past developments and future of Southampton. Jeff noted Don P was awarded the mayor's volunteer of the year award. Jeff gave info regarding director's report and the need for a motion to accept – Joe G asked for a motion to approve consent items. Discussion: Chris S asked why Western Ave. pull out was not passed.

Reports of city Departments:

Mayor: not present

City Engineer Assistant: Heather – construction continues; is aware of residents' concerns and will be adding greenery and increase the height to 7-8 feet; the north section is moved from 2015 TIP to 2016, advertised for bid on 10/15, design work continues; Chris S mentioned Chapter 90 discussion at City Council meeting and asked if FOCG should take a stand and get our voice out there; Dan A said state has cut chapter 90 funds; Heather said East Silver St. bridge removal is on hold and other items regarding completion in Nov.; Bob P mentioned a wash out near drain and Heather said DPW is responsible; Jeff asked if possible to request a meeting with Planet Green and proposed to do a walk through of ramp near Gold St. to avoid similar issue of past trail ramp problem and Heather will check.

Tabling event on 4/26 for Westfield 5K race at Stanley Park (7:30-11:30AM) and to focus on membership drive.

The Trail Mixer will be on May 15 from 4:00-7:00PM at Shaker Farms CC

Old Business:

- Spoke cards: Diane G – no update and will continue to get info
- Volunteer of the year awards – tabled
- Bike to business – tabled

New Business:

- Jeff said meeting/conversations with Mark C regarding Western Ave. and that our persuasive powers have been positive; he, MJ and Don met with representatives and now more was approved (5 ft. and 1 ft. detail markings and the travel lane is lesser); Joe G congratulated members who were vocal in support; Heather said Mark is addressing / balancing (ie, historic cobblestones) items in the project; 25% design of Western Ave. is submitting in July
- Joe G said we need to establish communication to review RFP: motion made, seconded, vote passed; MJ mentioned George H's quality of minutes.

- Joe C gave a handout regarding Psychology Internship Opportunity: Dr. Bob Hayes will coordinate and they have a student named Russell P who wants to be a part of this; Joe G asked how to avoid biased sampling; it will begin 9/1/14; Joe C noted assorted info and data; motion made, seconded, vote passed.
- Dog clean up stations: Bob P gave a handout, K9s and Felines gave info and will support; motion to approve \$500.00 to purchase 2; Sally asked who'd empty them; Dan A said worm recycling is available; Al G mentioned potential vandalism; Joe G suggested tabling until next meeting.
- Motion made to send a letter of support to BID; Jeff said there is outside/community opposition to BID so we should offer support to BID; Chris S asked if there is any benefit to FOCG and Jeff L explained they are our 'friend'; Dan A stated business/city items; Sally asked what is point of our supporting BID and Jeff L said just to show support of their advocacy and if we should support them, they'd support us; motion made to vote if we write a letter of support, motion did not pass.
- Chris S; volunteer request on website, Jeff said John T not done yet; suggested a regular Saturday ride of 20-30 miles; need for rules of trail.
- Don P said posters on bike week next week will advertise all events; will have 3-4 dozen posters and asked for locations.
- Jeff L: advocacy meeting of Complete Streets approved a program and access to additional funding.

Next meeting: May 20, 2014 6:30PM

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded, vote passed