

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of Meeting
April 19, 2016, 6:30pm
Rinnova Building

Attendance: J. Giffune, A. Flyte, K. Phelon, B. Pac, B. Burch, D. Podolski, D. Begley, H. Miller

Motion to approve Minutes from March Meeting (B. Pac)
Seconded (D. Podolski)
Motion passed

Reports of City Officers

City Engineer, represented by H. Miller

- North section is out to bid
- Currently working on esplanade
- City is ready to start design for central phase
- Regarding Western Ave, State Arborist visited and assessed trees that would be impacted based on current plan, and identified which should be protected and which should not (based on health of tree). Not sure of timing when new plans will be released.
- K. Phelon asked how many bridges are in the central phase, J. Giffune said several. G. Hart asked how many ramps, H. Miller said she that it still needs to be planned.
- D. Podolski asked when Franklin Ave will be repaved, H. Miller did not have that information.

Treasurer's Report

- D. Begley said that deposits need to be made, and that there is a net profit. The current budget does not include money from the brick campaign.

Old/New Business

Membership plan

- A. Flyte reported that we should have a goal of 100 new members. One way to increase our numbers is for board members to join, and to get one friend to join. A. Flyte plans on doing a newsletter.

Elm Street Involvement

- Suggested we might have some input on Elm St. Bridge, and should get involved with the cultural council

Trail Counters

-Trail counter can be placed on city structures. J. Tassinari looking into wireless router to more easily access the data.

New Historical Signs

-M. Bull has student working on a new historical sign. Reported that M. Cressotti would like signs for the esplanade. One idea was a sign on the keystone arches and for the Chester Rail Station.

Brick Campaign

-The board thought that limiting brick engraving to names alone was not appropriate. A compromise was proposed by the City: wording needs approval from city and a list of approved phrases from the Board should be forwarded to the City. D. Poloski motioned to enter into an agreement with the City for a brick naming plan. B. Pac seconded. Motion passed.

Website

-J. Giffune requested from the Board to approve \$3000 for the new website. D. Begley motioned, D. Podolski seconded. Discussion included K. Phelon supporting Bright Cloud, who also does the Chamber's website and has had lots of positive feedback. B. Burch was happy to remove himself from voting due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed.

May 17 Meet and Greet

-5:30pm at the Atheneum reading room. J. Giffune will give introductions, M. Cressotti will show what's coming up with the trail, and we will open it up for questions. Followed by 6:30 board meeting. J. Giffune asked about advertising, A. Flyte suggested radio, include as part of bike week schedule of events, have a press release, and use facebook.

Tabling

J. Giffune has assigned people to represent the Friends Group at various events. It will be Board members' responsibility to find replacements

B. Pac asked about posting rules and regulations for the trail, similar to Southwick. A. Flyte will forward rules to J. Camilleri

May 16, 11 am there will be the official unveiling of the historical signs. B. Pac suggested we advertise this event on facebook.

Dan (surname?) originally from Southwick, reported that he recently moved to Westfield and would like to be more actively involved with the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail. Board members were welcoming (not surprisingly!).

Meeting adjourned