

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on May 21, 2013

Roll call: Co-Clerk, George Hart - members present – Joe Camilleri, Mike Fournier, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Jeff LaValley, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, John Tassinari, Mark Cressotti, Eric Hall, PJ Miller

Motion to accept the minutes of 4-16-13 meeting was made: vote passed

Old Business

- Discussion of memorial gifts: PJ stated the law department said no vote needed: Jeff gave proposal of \$ and donor could designate what to use the \$ for (enhancements/education/bench/maintenance) – it was decided to move forward.
- Trail counts: [sorry, but I did not get # for 5-7-13], 38 on 5-9-13 (low due to poor weather), 161 on 5-11-13; to be repeated in July & August? Mark C asked if it could be extended to full day, Joe G said he will share the counts; we had great response of volunteer counters – very high number in all 3 days.
- Recap of Trail Mixer event on 5-20-13: final count of 180 people in attendance made it a community awareness builder; cost was approx. \$2,000. excellent educational presentation; it was established as a signature event and same in the fall with future as a fund raiser; wrap up meeting will be announced by email; could be combined with other events & in other places.
- Joe C noted a police presence near old train station; Joe G stated there is confusion over the blinking lights at crossings and assorted communications on red/blinking lights: Eric H stated rule.

Reports:

PJ Miller

- No added info.

Mark Cressotti

- Bids were opened; board of public works noted trail is in good shape; this grant takes us to June of 2014: Bob P asked for the time line & Mark said that approx. 7-1-13 to get mobilization completed in spring time; Bob P asked about the care/responsibility of existing trail; Jeff L asked re ownership & Mark said it is assorted & able to receive funds from park or transportation sources; BPW is responsible for maintenance & Mark said to attend their meetings; Bob P asked who is responsible for removing graffiti; Eric H said that immediate response/removal is crucial & Joe G said FOCG should be a part of the care/prevention; Mark said WPD has done a good job of preventing; Joe C asked about fences & Mark said black metal over bridges; Mike F asked about lighting & Mark said only in urban area.

Vice Chair, Joe Giffune

- Update on phase 2 spur: Joe reported changes to original plan of coming down behind Commercial Distributor: PJ Miller said approx. 3 to 4 weeks ago Comm. Distr. had a plan for expansion on the spur so their goal is to expand across the spur & PJ felt this was not proper & the Mayor felt to move the spur off phase 2 to another location later; Joe G said this phase is moving to urban functional trail so on & off access is needed, so functional access is important so need to create functional access for young users or if not it won't be used & FOCG should take position to support the original spur; Don P said use of cross walks & stop lights is acceptable; PJ stated the late hour of spur change has created difficulties; Joe G reiterated that we want to promote use and this spur change would prevent use; Mark said it is a multi phase process & could change (addition) in the future; Joe G said FOCG should be present; PJ said need to meet July deadline; Jeff will schedule an on site meeting within the week.

Chairman, Jeff LaValley

- Change of meeting venue: move so we bring people from center of city to attend meetings – we have an offer from Church of Atonement & should start there in Sept.; a motion to move the meeting location was made and vote passed.
- Follow up on Trail Mixer & email: how to increase effect on education of variety of projects & we should take action to benefit communication & include school dept. and police to increase safety & called for members to serve – Don P, Bob P, George H, Joe C & Jeff L volunteered.

Treasurer, Mike Fournier

- Gave copies of 3 page report with minimum activity; Barry Knapp asked if we've reached out to past donors & response was that we will.

Director of Advancement, (Al G. absent)

- No report

Director of Programs and Events, (Nancy K. absent)

- No report – it was noted that the next golf committee meeting will be 5-23-13 at Shaker Farms.

Director of Education and Research Don Podolski

- Bike week events had up & down numbers.
- Bikeability assessment: to be held on 7-13-13 & in Aug.; need volunteers.

Director of Planning, Maintenance and Development, (MJ Bull absent)

- No report – it was stated that MJ needs a co-director & Diane M at WSU is willing.

Reports of Committees

- Communication & website – none
- Community liaison - none

Public Participation:

- none

Next Meeting: Full Board on 6-18-13, 6:30PM at Shaker Farms CC

Motion to adjourn was made, motion passed