

**Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail**  
***Minutes of the Meeting on May 19, 2015***

Clerk, George Hart arrived late, therefore, the first portion of minutes were recorded by Chris Steger as follows:

Members present: Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, Al Guagliardo, George Hart (arrived late), Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Chris Steger, John Tassinari, Alice Flyte

Minutes of April 2015 were approved

W. S. Sign Design: Ron Whittaker and Chris Whittaker

Designed panel reviewed, ½” imbedded fiberglass panels, 10 yr. Warranty, high definition graphics, George is doing the graphics, system used is in State Parks, easy to clean panels (remove graffiti), panels graphics are imbedded making it harder to scratch, special wrench required to attach and remove panels.

Remainder of minutes by George Hart

Mark C. said we should go to Park & Rec in regards to memorial bricks and to DPW in regards to signs; he also recommended we go through the city law dept. with initial draft.

Chris S. asked about installation of signs and Ron W and Chris W asked what they'd be installed into and Joe G. said into concrete filled holes. John T asked them about material of the sign posts and they said there are multiple sturdy materials and they advocated for black aluminum, then John T mentioned green and all agreed to be consistent with black throughout most of the trail sign and they recommended sonotubes. Joe G asked of needing a purchase order and checks, they said 50% down payment. George Ramirez showed samples of 3 signs; sizes are 24” x 36”; assorted discussion of sign samples/ kiosks/ MJ and George R are still revising and working hardest on finalizing. Mark C said other kiosks will be near Stop & Shop and Temperance Park and another in the Central Section; Joe G said signs look great and asked if we could keep the 3 samples and George R said yes.

**Report of City Engineer, Mark Cressotti:**

We open bids on Columbia Greenway Central and it is the same contractor as present (bridge and underpass), awarded with wood railing and ornamental metal by Stop & Shop; Joe G asked of North side of town section and North bridge section bid, Mark C said bid will go out at end of the year; Western Ave. progress of 2 sections by 2017 and 2019; questions and discussion of North of river to Southampton; Joe G asked about stone blocks for seating at rest stops; Mark c said we need a memo of agreement for memorial bricks; Bob P asked when paving of next section would be done and Mark C said in Sept.; John T asked of brick samples for engraver to see material.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of both March meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote passed; same for April minutes.

Sally M. - proposed art gallery photo contest for grades k-5 and proposed \$500.00 for flyers and \$300.00 for snacks and a Penny Saver add of \$119.00; Joe G will get an email from her with these dollar details as well as further details (when/where/etc.); further discussion of timing and budget.

Don P. – gave info on Great River Ride on 10/11/15: Sierra Brewery will donate all beer money to FOCG and if FOCG could pull in more riders to total of 500; also a wine tasting ride; Goe G asked him for an email with details so we can get info out asap.

### **Reports of Directors:**

Chair, Jeff L. - absent

Vice Chair, Joe G. - reported on tabling at Run Westfield event; Peoples Bank met with Jeff L and him so we should have word soon regarding their donation.

Treasurer, Joe G. – more than breaking even at \$21,000.00; asked if anyone used Paypal acct (of \$375.00)? No one had, so he'll check and get back to us.

Co-Director Education/Research, Don P. – attended the last MA Bike/Pedestrian meeting regarding policy; also, Eric Hall had noted bike accidents with no details of ages or locations; also noted assorted other events; on June 3 a reception will be held at Rinnova Bldg. and a plaque will be presented to Mayor Knapik for his selection as Bicycle Supporter of the Year.

### **Old Business:**

- brick campaign hinges on MOA (per Mark C)
- various maintenance requests (too many/ too rapid for GHart to record!) by Bob P
- GRR: already covered
- Cost of George R.'s design work (per Joe G)
- Joe G: questions regarding cost and where purchased the minor benches in CT
- Alice F: Farmington Trail info: will get for agenda in June, and further questions and discussion
- Joe G asked for volunteers to set up on weekends for tabling at Shaker Farms CC parking lot to promote trail/info/etc.; asked if we could get a laptop donated.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, vote passed.

Next meeting 6/15/15