

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on June 16, 2015

Clerk, George Hart - roll call: members present: MJ Bull, Mark Cressotti, Joe Giffune, Al Guagliardo, George Hart, Demetrios Kanavaros, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Eric Hall, Chris Steger, John Tassinari, Alice Flyte

Motion to approve May meeting minutes: accepted, vote passed

Reports of Chairs:

Jeff L – asked if anyone has FOCG merchandise at home to contact him; George H said he will deliver to Jeff after calling to set a time. Discussion of invoice for Rinnova Building. Grant opportunities: to support the Mark Fenton event of \$1,000.00; to purchase trail counters (\$1,750.00 each) and Demetrios K supported this; Bank of America might attend TIP and noted that it is great we are at TIP meetings; should we wage an advocacy campaign? – will reach out to Don Podolski to send an email to all friends addresses. Topic of conversations on social media: a city councilor ___? ___ regarding FOCG involve with funding in PV MPO – meeting on June 23 at 10:00am. Potential for us to have a for profit fund raiser by food truck and if anyone is interested in doing this? Discussion of SFCC hosting, there were assorted disagreements for FOCG doing this.

Treasurers Report – Joe G: he emailed a year-to-date form: we are down \$1,200.00 in total income; noted \$ from 3 events; grant from Whole Foods of \$(___?___); up over \$500.00 in marketing expenses; noted need to plan 2016; \$1,600.00 for George R; and expenses for golf tournament; we are at \$150.00 income for memberships; Jeff L said he'll check on monthly email costs and investigative research; MJ B said we need to get memberships and this led to assorted discussions of flyers, kiosks, etc.; balance sheet is about \$21,000.00 now; \$125.00 (unknown prior) went to brochures.

Vice Chair Report – Joe G: Memorandum of Agreement on how we donate to city: they sent a draft and lawyer approved; city is in charge of installation, it is moving along regarding bricks/benches, decision for purchase order on signs needs to go thru legal dept.; placement of signs – group went out on trail to decide specific locations: info is in photos on website; against the first sign at park, recommendation is: first at Shaker Rd., second at canal north of Tin bridge, third at tobacco fields north of South Meadow St., fourth at near Columbia Mfg., fifth at Main St. kiosk – removed rail road crossing sign (to go north of Main St.) with three more signs to go in the north section; may remove top rail of fence to place signs behind fence in order to protect against collisions; the bridge and underpass is to be done by June 30; there is a meeting on July 14 at 7:00pm at Board of Public Works regarding the whole levy project; asked Glenda from Rite Aid about bike racks and MJ B asked if Rite Aid is interested in funding events/items/other ideas and Glenda said she would check.

MJ Bull and WSU student who graduated in 2015: they gave presentation on a video (problems with the projector) – Wayfinding: all on video and multi-page handout by Thaddeus Dobek. Jeff L stated some city leaders are concerned of needing a “sign limit.” Other comments regarding: A. positives and negatives (aesthetics, costs, directions to businesses, etc.), B. city deciding signage, C. FOCG support by funding, D. assorted further comments.

Director of Outreach – Sally Memole: followed up on last meeting regarding kids photo contest: listed finances on handout with total costs of \$1,294.00; income from raffle, selling t-shirts, etc; proposed the weekend of the Great River Ride (Columbus Day weekend). Jeff L asked about selling artwork as calendars and will get appropriate parent permission. He asked to see Barbara Trant regarding using Rinnova for posting pictures. Sally M proposed to start on facebook. Jeff L asked for a motion to approve: motion made, seconded, discussion (get flyer approval and not to exceed \$1,500.00), vote passed. Alice Flyte agree to help Sally with plans and prep.

Jeff L – Golf Tournament: from Sandy Sorel; get donors! Next golf meeting is June 18 at SFCC at 7:00pm.

Report of City Engineer, Mark Cressotti:

More revisions of MOU; progress on phase three (bridge and underpass) and a July 14 meeting regarding the esplanade; remainder of trail funding coming by 2017. Chris Steger asked about the bike friendly Westfield doing cleaning of sand off streets by street sweepers.

Old Business:

- Mark Fenton event: Thursday, October 1 and open to the public; WSU will do publicity and \$3,500.00 to fund it; meeting with PJ Miller, possibly hold it at WSU or at Westfield Technical Academy H.S.
- Need a vote on issue of eight signs and frames at cost of \$1,380.00 each = \$11,040 of FOCG money; motion made for purchase of eight signs and frames (\$11,040) by end of summer (contingent upon MOU approval), seconded, vote passed.
- Al Guagliardo asked for volunteers to attend the golf tournament meeting.
- John Tassinari said we need to raise money for the brick campaign: area on the levee at the Project Pavilion; working with Laurie; noted various facts/items (flyer, costs (\$18.00 per brick, landscaper, time line of city installation by fall of 2015 or spring of 2016, administration).
- Al Guagliardo gave fundraising ideas: wine tasting and beer fest at SFCC info on handout; he is willing to do it. Joe G asked for a budget; Bob P asked of liability and Al said it is covered by location (SFCC); Jeff L said thanks and to check on other venues; Al said beer at Sons of Erin; Mark C asked about holding it on Westfield's "First Night" and it will be held at the newly completed north site.

New Business:

Alice F mentioned new membership proposal of a drive between bike week and ___?___ with a meet and greet; Sally M and Jeff L agreed to help her.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, vote passed.

Next meeting 9/15/15 – except for next two golf meetings on 6/18/15 and 7/16/15