

## Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

### Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

Present: Joe Giffune, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, MJ Bull, Joe Camerilli, Sandy Sorel, Don Podolski, Chris Steger, Mark Cressotti,

Guest: Dan Call, Brian Hoose, Pat Lovejoy, Ben Surprise

Consent Agenda pull items:

Rail Trail count, glow walk, community art wall

Meeting minutes from May, 2016 approved (motion: Alice, second: Bob)

Mark Cressotti Report:

1. Columbia north bids were higher than expected, contract to be awarded any way for execution in spring 2017
2. Central phase is next in line, other phases being wrapped up
3. Western Ave multiuse trail, proposal to move to federal FY 2017, mayor may be in favor of change, construction would start in FY 2018, advance public hearing is required run by MA DOT, intended to tweak items on the current design, this is a public meeting open to public comment
4. Discussion about Sharrow signs on North Elm, in place to comply with DOT rules, there has been calls for and against the signs, the signs are intended to inform motorists bikes can be in the road
5. Traffic commission has on agenda to discuss "Share the Road" signs (create confusion depending on interpretation)

Public Participation:

1. Brian Hoose presented some information about art on and around rail trail, intended to drive community involvement
2. Brian agreed to introduce Joe G. to Westfield Schools Superintendent for more details
3. Hedges Ave tunnel art project discussed (Alice attended a meeting)
4. Discussion about which city department should be responsible for the rail maintenance, park vs. a right of way discussed
5. Councilor Surprise agreed to take FOCGRT recommendation to full city council

Director's Report:

Chair Report: arrange a group to monitor construction progress (TIP money)

Treasurers Report:

Statements not ready by meeting date, balance is approximately \$25

Director of Maintenance:

1. Trail count went from 7 am to 7 pm Saturday, September 24, 701 users counted, peak use was 2 users per minute, discussion if these numbers can be compared to other trail counts done on other trails

2. Traffic Counters are still be investigated, likely to choose type that counts all user types vs. defining which type of user, a little more research by Bob to be completed, target is to have counters paid for by 12/31/16
3. Councilor Surprise agreed to arrange a public hearing about the economic benefit of rail trail

#### Planning and Development:

Redo survey of people's attitudes about rail trail, discussion about proper polling techniques which be managed by students and advisors

#### Director of Membership:

1. Discussion about the need for all Board members to be formal members of FOCGRT, all members agreed to sign up before next meeting (membership forms handed out)
2. Glow Walk, having problems getting it off the ground, targeting October 15, starting at 7 pm.
3. **Motion: Board to formally support event (MJ approved, Bob P. seconded, motion passed)**

#### Resource Development:

Golf tournament gathering final details and numbers.

#### Old Business:

1. Brick campaign continuing
2. Report vandalism on trail to WPD
3. FOCGRT web site upgrades continuing, board members needed to be trained on how to make changes, to be scheduled
4. 501c3 status: in good standing

#### New Business:

1. Historical signs discussed, MJ and WSU students working on a native American sign, target installation in spring 2017
2. Proposal to install a completed sign on new esplanade, all agreed it is better to have signs out than in storage
3. **Nomination for FOCGRT Clerk, Chris Steger nominated by Don P, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MJ, approved**
4. Downtown bike parking grant, discussion of temporary and permanent racks, MJ to follow-up on where and how temporary bike racks can be installed

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.