

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on October 15, 2013

Roll call: **Co-Clerk, George Hart** - members present – MJ Bull, Joe Camilleri, Diane Genereux, George Hart, Nancy Kotowitz, Jeff LaValley, Bob Pac, Don Podolski, Chris Stegr, John Tassinari, Donna Tatlock Calkins

Motion to accept the minutes (after revision) of 9-17-13 meeting was made: vote passed

Public participation: David Carlin, new resident, stated he loves using the rail trail near Harvest Moon. He is no stranger to government and is open to serve if there are openings.

Old Business: none

Reports of city Departments: none present

Reports of Directors:

- Jeff L: reviewed his state house visit: Mark Fenton spoke on transportation/healthy (and maybe we should bring him to Westfield); state bills regarding transportation; check the email he sent with a conversation regarding Western Ave.
- Mike F: absent – Jeff reported for him - Mike is VERY busy because of tax season and he extended his apologies and will carry out responsibilities for this term, but needs a replacement for the next term; current bank balance is \$22,000-23,000; Jeff will search for a CPA and if we know of one we should contact Jeff; MJ requested a report be sent before the next meeting.
- Al G: absent
- Nancy K: requested everyone to email her with info for the website
- Don P: at the PVC meeting no one knows about the **current status of ___? ___ (sorry I missed this)**; Bob P did an assessment and it can be added to; the bike summit is the week of 3/4/14; noted a handout from state transportation issue; Jeff questions: 1/ invoice of partial report for \$200-300, 2/ copies sent of handout; MJ asked if amount will cover entire distance of Western Ave.; Chris S asked if city has done studies and Don said yes based on motor traffic; MJ said we need specific counts; motion was made to include additional \$300 to Western Ave. study and vote passed.
- MJ B and Diane G: study said motorists like bike lanes; gave handout on WSU request of safe biking; Diane said we need signage but didn't know how; MJ asked for \$250 for books and motion was made to accept and the vote passed.

Reports of Committees:

- Bob P said to be sure to wear your helmet (after his accident)! Nominating committee: 12 responses requested info and 2 replied with forms; he expects to have a slate by our next meeting.

- Communication and website: John hasn't posted yet and wants up to date info regarding phase 2; Jeff said grant was extended to 2014 and bids are being reopened; Diane asked if there is a location online for signage; Chris said TIM = Trails In Motion on pavement of many CT intersections; Jeff asked Diane to lead a committee regarding signs/maps/directions/ads on signs.
- Educational Task Force: they met and Jeff mentioned all info is on a handout online that he sent to everyone; Don said other community info is available.

New Business:

- Funding requests: Bon Ton \$5.00 booklets (we made \$400 last year); from YMCA for their fundraising event (we questioned them regarding tabling at their event: Chris S mentioned our prior discussion of finances and that we need to budget for this; MJ noted that the YMCA furthers our mission in a collaborative way: motion to enter a team and/or members, but motion did not carry); Jeff said to form a committee to outline our goals for a finance committee with a deadline of Nov. meeting, motion carried
- Discussion of purchasing bike stencils for downtown sidewalks at \$40 per stencil, Don said he can give a link with all proper signs; Don noted signs for riding wrong way on streets (mount on back of road signs) and to include as an education campaign; motion made to go to city council or city boards to ask permission and Jeff said he would go to city council to present pictures.
- Recommendation for new division of responsibility: director of maintenance/director of planning and development – Jeff listed general responsibilities. MJ stated this is a bylaw change and Jeff read the requirement of needing a 2/3 majority. Motion to change passed with 11 in favor. Motion to nominate Bob Pac as the new director was made and passed with 11 in favor.
- October 23 information session regarding Western Ave: Jeff spoke passionately regarding being disappointed with city's position on eliminating the designated pedestrian/bike path and that we need a huge attendance at the meeting and feels the city is remiss in it's stance; we should wear FOCG shirts, bring helmets & lights, request design that is safest possible, bring shared posters. Don mentioned the online survey from New Horizon's website which is accessible through the weekend and he gave a handout with the current responses. Jeff will present in a post meeting press conference and will have information available; assorted discussion of past and future conversations and statements.

Next meeting: November 19 when elections will take place

Bob Pac said that at the last DPW meeting we were given approval to repair graffiti and to do counts of use.

Motion to adjourn was made: vote passed