

Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Minutes of the Meeting on October 21, 2014

Roll call: Clerk, George Hart - members present: Mark Cressotti, Diane Genereux, Joe Giffune, George Hart, Jeff LaValley, Sally Memole, Bob Pac, Kate Phelon, Don Podolski, Chris Stegr

Open Meeting Announcement: Jeff L read the announcement

Approval of Consent Items: from Jeff L's agenda items – “Any Board Member wishing to discuss any items found in any of the submitted Reports (including: Minutes from September 16, 2014, Chair's Report, Vice Chair's Report, Treasurer's Report, Director of Maintenance Report, Director of Advancement Report, Co-Directors of Education & Research, Golf Committee, and Nominating Committee) must motion to ‘pull the item’ and place the item on the agenda for further discussion. If no such motion is made, the Consent Items are approved “in whole” with no further discussion of aforementioned Reports or items therein contained.”

Reports of City Officers - City Engineer: Mark Cressotti – accolades to the entire FOCGRT as the ‘wind in the sails’ of moving forward; mentioned the ripple effect from newspaper article; plan in state of flexibility for the extension which will return the East Silver St. bridge, add a ramp to Hedges Ave., add a 25 foot tunnel of 12-13 foot width and is short due to issue of security & surveillance, include a temporary easement for a ramp next to Stop & Shop, all ramps are 8 feet or more in width, 12 foot high lights; on Nov. 13 there will be a public hearing (on the extension and the north section) in city council chambers from 6:30 to 8:00PM; estimates of \$300,000 extra so will use for improvements to the north section (levy), presents exciting issues: redevelopment of levy with a ‘River Park’ highlighting the lighting all equals about \$700,000; showed pictures that are on city website; there are city developments (city extending gas line under the extension/existing section/new section) from Ponders Hollow Rd. To Depot Square; feel free to call anytime if any questions.

Special Presentation on Interpretive signage/Graphics - George Ramirez: thank you for selecting me as the designer for the rail trail – presentation: relating to Westfield history, various colors, simple palate of 6 items, another design, and a ‘you are here’ design (simple) with maps and street names; various conversations on sign contents; Jeff L will email us with attachments and George's email, we all need to send comments to Joe G.

Special Presentation on Attitudinal Survey/WSU Intern - Russ Hatim: prior survey is approved; many gave him their input of assorted items (ie; gender, parking, etc); send input directly to Russ asap (Wed. 10/22 or Thur. 10/23)

Public Participation: none

Reports of Directors & Committees: none

Motion to pull agenda items for discussion: Bob P (L & O section), Joe G (9/11); motion to approve, seconded, vote passed

Motion to accept the minutes of our 9/16/14 meeting was made and seconded, vote passed

Bob Pac: L & O start discussion, will form a committee with assorted people from groups, ie: FOCGRT, police, etc.

Joe Giffune: Sept. 11 Memorial: signs for Brian Murphy (killed in 9/11), brother has interest in area by Tin Bridge, maybe as a sign; FOCG should be doing these kinds of things; no serious plan, ask him to approach us, we'll support; under what subcommittee? – advancement; Jeff L referred to past draft of moving appropriately and he'll bring it back for discussion and research on moving appropriately.

Old Business:

- 1. Maintenance issues/requests:
 - A. refer to last meeting re; mirror at Harvest Moon ramp; Jeff L asked how far into this should we get? -> led to discussion of placing a sign and Jeff L will ask Mark C about this.
 - B. Shaker Rd.: city councilor said should install a fence with a gate to prevent child crossings; Jeff L will draft correspondence with the councilor to address with traffic commission and FOCG must do this.
 - C. fence at East Silver/ Coleman: we'll respond to businesses to contact traffic commission.
 - D. Jeff L stated that he was asked if the rail trail will be available in winter: we need to further review this as a city issue – this was tabled.
- 2. Bicycle racks downtown/Big Y: Don Podolski stated it is a corporate issue; Big Y is a corporation; city will install racks; OK to install his mural without need for permit.
- 3. YMCA Cycle for a Cause: Jeff L explained the needs; George H explained the event as a fundraiser to benefit the community members with financial assistance.
- 4. Video Detection & Trail Counting: Don P gave assorted \$ info; Tru-view is recommended; Jeff L has applied for a grant to support this.

New Business

- 1. FY 2015 Budget Proposed Draft: Joe G gave plan for a smaller group to help with this and Jeff L, Chris S, Don P, Joe G, Bob P volunteered; Jeff L said we may have a donor for new pet stand; Don P gave the Great River Ride donors' checks.
- 2. Community Outreach: A. regarding the 11/13/14 public hearing and info session, it was suggested that we go door to door with flyers (Jeff L will create them) and to encourage residents to walk and view the completed section. B. 2 or 3 city council members need educating, also chief of police; Jeff L asked for members to serve on the Pedestrian and Bicycling Planning Committee; Joe G said FOCG should help create a mission statement for the above committee. C. & D. General Public & Proposed PR Campaign: Jeff L said we should spend money on PR campaign for signs/safety; need an RFP to build into budget, Jeff L will draft it.

Community Reports - none

Next meeting on 1/18/14 at 6:30PM – this will include elections, so please forward names of new member candidates to Joe C; Don P mentioned a few upcoming organizations, meetings, trainings.

Food Truck Festival – Sally M presented this as a FOCG fundraiser with a \$5.00 fee; need for fence around the area; pros and cons to be discussed; need for assorted activities (kids,, music, arts, etc); Jeff L said we need a budget (2 versions); time of year, possibly to coincide with a home WSU game; mentioned assorted city needs.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, vote passed