

## Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

### Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Present: Joe Giffune, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, MJ Bull, Sandy Sorel, Chris Steger, Denise Begley, John Tassinari, Bob Burch,

Guest: Dan Call, Sargent Eric Hall, Jeremy Cigal (City Engineering), Julie Desharnais (Art Works)

Meeting minutes from September 20, 2016 approved with changes – change meeting date to Sept. 17 and Andrew Surprise (MJ motion to approve, Sandy seconded:). Sandy, MJ and Dan did not receive meeting minutes email from last month.

Consent Agenda pull items:

Rail Trail counters, glow walk, school principle meeting, meeting about trail signs, brick installs, YMCA Cycle for a Cause,

City Engineering Report:

1. Jeremy is a new Engineer with the City of Westfield
2. Rail road bridge bids opened and were above allotted amount, DOT to approve with work to start in 2017
3. Central phase is next in line, still planned for FY 2019
4. Western Ave multiuse trail is still the priority, more ready for construction than central phase

Eric Hall:

1. Community police present during glow walk was a success
2. Good for people to see a police presence
3. City Council needs to approve events on trail, they want to hear input from Police Dept. prior to event approval
4. Rail trail comments should go to Sgt. Hall's city email address
5. Most vandalism appears to be occurring between Stop and Shop and E. Silver Street  
Joe Giffune to follow up with Councilor Figy about city ordinance for rail trail

Treasurer's Report

Golf tournament has made \$7800 so far. \$25,492 is the check book balance. No record of receiving a check from the Short Stop event.

Chairman's Report:

1. Temporary bike rack efforts are ongoing, Joe G. to attend City Department Head meeting
2. MJ has a proposed map for bike rack locations
3. Information about sharrows was sent to Mark Cressotti, used for high bike traffic streets
4. Discussion about a FOCGRT letter to the editor concerning sharrows
5. Discussion about videos of riding on Western Ave to highlight hazards
6. Discussion about software on how to find local businesses and best bike route
7. Discussion about using school Principals to help get community involved in trail art

8. MJ is working with students on the native American sign
9. George is participating in Cycle for a Cause at Westfield YMCA, November 5, 8 am – noon, discussion about policy on donations of FOCGRT funds, members can contribute via George or at the YMCA, discussion around doing a table during the event, Chris, Alice and Sandy volunteered, contact Sandy if members are interested

#### Joint Transportation Committee Update

1. Dan, Joe G. and Mark Cressotti attended meeting
2. Lobbied for Western Ave project
3. Received information about status of pre-construction items needing addressing for central phase
4. Discussion about central phase being pushed out to FY 2019
5. Discussion on how to promote trail construction starting earlier than 2019

#### Glow Walk

1. Over 50 attended, great success
2. Agreement to repeat next year (October full moon)

#### Director of Resource Development:

1. Golf tournament profit exceeded previous two years
2. Need someone to step up for next year with the goal of running event in 2018
3. June 23, 2017 is set for next year's event
4. Julie volunteered to help with next year's event
5. John, Sandy and Dan walked in Big E parade representing Board of Directors, discussion on how to have better participation in next year's parade

#### Principles Meeting

1. Email Joe G with any topics

#### Sign Placement

1. Joe meeting with Mark C for locations
2. Bob and MJ to assist

#### Old Business:

1. Discussion about FOCGRT Clerk position, **MJ moved to appoint Chris Steger as Clerk, Bob Pac Second, motion approved**
2. Web Site update, update handed out to Board members showing progress, challenges and costs; costs have exceeded original \$3000 budget and an additional \$540 is needed to complete web page redesign; on November 1 from 6 – 8 pm there will be training on how to update and manage the FOCGRT web site, contact John Tassinari for details

**Sandy made motion to approve distributing an additional \$700 for web design work, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Burch, motion approved**

**Bob Burch made motion to approve \$349 annually for web page support, second by Sandy, motion approved**

Joe G. to work with Bob Burch on Facebook page updates and upgrades

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.