

Friends of Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Inc.

Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Present: Joe Giffune, Bob Pac, George Hart, Alice Flyte, Don Pololski, Chris Steger, John Tassinari, Bob Burch

Guest: Dan Call, Mark Cressotti (City Engineering), Bengr-Olaf Scheider

Consent Agenda pull items:

City Council L&O meeting

Letter of support for bike racks

Senior Center meeting

City Engineering Report:

1. Vetting work continuing on Columbia Greenway central section, some changes in original scope, Bridge, Coules Court and southern end at 75% of design, MEPA review is necessary for this section, suggestion was made to have access to Elm Street bridge from Elm Street near court house
2. Columbia Greenway north rail road bridge bids opened contract awarded by DOT, no construction meeting scheduled yet, \$3.6 cost for rehabilitation
3. Trail rail sleeves were not completed during construction of southern end of trail, some railings are missing parts
4. Western Ave multiuse trail is still waiting for DOT meeting
5. **Joe to arrange a meeting with Mark about sign placement on esplanade.**
6. **Joe to add to December meeting agenda an item to determine if a FOCGRT subcommittee would be helpful for the Elm Street bridge crossing.**

Treasurer's Report:

Approximately \$25,492 is the check book balance. Bill due for consulting financial assistance.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from October 18, 2016, (Don motion to approve, Alice seconded). Motion passed.

City Council L&O Meeting (complete streets initiative):

Council is looking to get an ordinance in place, discussion about MA complete streets program, **Joe to communicate to FOCGRT members when next L&O meeting is**, it is possible to sign up on the City of Westfield website to receive meeting notices,

Senior Center meeting:

Joe attending a meeting at the Westfield Senior Center, discussion to include rest stops on the rail trail, possible to hold a future meeting for seniors about trail use and ideas.

Old Business:

Web site update: Member training complete, revised web site going live week of November 15th.

Trail Counters: Joe to work with PVPC to order counters.

New Business:

At Large position open on FOCGRT, discussion about filling position, Bob Burch made motion to nominate Dan Call, seconded by John Tassinari. **Joe to add nomination to December meeting agenda.** Additionally, Sandy Sorel, Alice Flyte and Al Guagliardo are all up for re-election. (communicated from Joe Giffune to Secretary after the meeting via email). **Joe to add these to December agenda.**

Bike Decorating for Westfield tree lighting. Watch WOW for more details.

Bike Racks: Don discussed the grant program for bike racks for 2017, applications are due December 17 (letter of intent), FOCGRT need to apply for grant money, proposing to add 12 black squirrel bike racks in downtown Westfield.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Next meeting December 20th, 6:30 pm, Rinnova Building