**FRIENDS OF THE CHESTER CREEK BRANCH, INC. Annual Board Meeting**

**August 6, 2018**

**Aston Community Center**

**Aston, PA 19014**

***Attendees: See Attendance Sheet***

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. Barry Pinkowicz, President, introduced the FOCCB board members. Barry reviewed minutes from the prior annual meeting. Bill Shaw made a motion, which was seconded by John Paulson, to approve the meeting minutes from the former 2017 Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Kelly Johnson conducted the Proxy vote for the FOCCB Board members. Ryan Pinkowicz volunteered to count the proxy votes for the 2018 Board of Directors. Nineteen votes were counted, and the slate of candidates was approved per the proxy.

Financial Report presented by Treasurer, John Paulson. Revenues and expenses reviewed. This report is available upon request for review.

Barry Pinkowicz spoke in regard to the trail and the accomplishments for 2017 and 2018.

**Phase I**

* Brick fundraiser and landscaping has been completed at the Mount Alverno Trailhead. Thank you to all of our supporters for making this a wonderful success.
* There will be a plaque honoring the late Mike Fusco, Founder and President of the FOCCB, placed on a stone near the “Mike Fusco Memorial Bridge”. There will be additional landscaping (Christmas ferns) placed near the stone.
* Additional plaques that will be placed include a plaque for County Council, a plaque for the Board Members of the FOCCB (past and present), and a plaque for the major contributors to the life of the trail.
* In memory of Mike Fusco, Middletown Township placed two signs renaming the “452 bridge” to the “Mike Fusco Memorial Bridge”.
* In April 2018, the MOU was signed by the County and the FOCCB. The County is now in charge of the Trail and any required maintenance. The FOCCB is still involved with projects, cleanup, and we are advocates for pushing the trail forward to future phases.
* The County is taking care of the washout area located between Mount Alverno Road and the 452 bridge. (The washout is between mile marker 2.8 and 2.9). The County went out to bid for this repair, and it should be taken care of shortly.
* Eagle Scouts are placing four more benches along the Middletown, Phase 1 section of the trail. (Three benches will be placed in the landscaped brick area, and one will be placed near the Linvilla Trail). The Scouts are working on their Eagle Scout project, so this does take some time to complete the installation of the benches.
* There are no more benches for sale for Phase I. However, once Phase II is completed, there may be an opportunity to purchase benches for this section of the trail.
* In an effort to control the invasive weeds along the trail, FOCCB provided Delaware County with an environmentally friendly weed company, “Weeds Inc.”, located in Aston, PA. The County signed the contract with Weeds Inc.
* Parking is still a real issue. The County is working aggressively on finding solutions to the parking situation.
* The FOCCB will be purchasing a bike workstation that will be placed near the Knowlton Road parking area. This will include an air pump, tools to repair your bike, and a stand to work on it.
* The FOCCB would like three kiosks for Phase I to be placed on the trail. However, the County has specific designs for all of their parks, and FOCCB will need to work very closely with the County in regard to this. This is still an open table item.
* Porta-Johns were discussed, but the County advised multiple times that they did not want to put them on the trail at this time.
* It was suggested that we get a counter to see how many people utilize the trail. FOCCB will be checking into this.
* It was suggested that we might want to look into trying to get an old train boxcar or a caboose to be placed at the area of the new Wawa Train Station. We could use this as a historic focus and/or museum.
* Rockdale Art Center is looking into grants for sidewalks and reshaping of Mount Road, which will be close to our trail.

**Phase II:**

* The County went out to bid in July 2018 for the purpose of securing an engineer for Phase II. The County will be awarding the bid around September 2018. The engineer will then proceed with the engineering study.
* The Aston section will go from Creek Road to Bridgewater Road.

**Phase III:**

* Phase III will go from Lenni Road to the Wawa Train Station. We cannot do anything to move forward with Phase III until the R3 line is underway in Middletown Township.

**Guest speaker**: Sarah Clark Stuart, Executive Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia for the Circuit Trails

* Sara gave a wonderful slide presentation at our annual meeting. She explained what the requirements are in order to be called a circuit trail and spoke on the progress they are making.
* She spoke in regard to the health and wellness benefit
* The Circuit Trail Coalition has been working together since 2012. They meet twice a year to review the goals.
* The William Penn Foundation pays for marketing campaigns such as scavenger hunts along the circuit trail.
* DVPRC would like 750 miles of circuit trail by 2040. The goal is to have 500 miles by the 2025 campaign.

Q & A – All Participating

Bill Shaw made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40 p.m. John Paulson seconded the motion.