

Dec 14, 2021 EMG Excom minutes

Excom members present: Ken Schechtman, Glenn May, John Feldman, Robert Robertson (left early) Caitlin Zera (left early)

Non Excom members present: Caroline Pufalt, Stephanie Todd, Jeff Marcus, Ashton Kuehnel (joined late)

1. Reviewed and approved minutes from Nov Excom meeting
2. Robert reported that we had \$8200 bill to pay to the chapter for 2021 salary support, rent share and minor misc items. This is a bit higher but roughly equivalent to last year's cost, although previously we had paid in two installments. John moved and Tim seconded a motion to make this payment. Passed unanimously. Robert had also prepared a draft 2022 budget which had been shared earlier. The proposed 2022 budget showed that even if we had 2 lemonade sales events next year, we would still likely have \$7000 deficit in 2022. Our costs have increased due to newsletter costs and payments to chapter. Gretchen asked that EMG pay 5% each for 3 positions in 2022 which is more than prior years by 5%.

The chapter is hiring a new office assistant/development director in 2022. Prior to John Hickey leaving, the chapter had a director and assistant director. When Gretchen became director, the assistant position was unfilled. Excom members had concerns about whether EMG should take over this extra cost. Also, a question was raised about if the assumption that EMG would pay this support originally.

We had general discussion about the value of chapter staff to EMG and the connections between chapter and groups. Ken will try to arrange a call among Robert, himself and Gretchen to discuss these costs and what EMG's role in supporting the chapter can be.

Excom recognized that since Covid has stopped our lemonade income 2020 through 2021 we have been spending our savings (CDs) to pay our commitments. John Feldman has been taking over more of the lemonade responsibility, working with Jim Young, to be prepared for possible 2022 sales. Thank you John and Jim. But Excom needs to explore more income options and/or expense reductions to plan responsibility for EMG's financial future.

EMG received a donation on behalf of the member Ed Fullerton who died recently. Caroline sent a note of appreciation.

3. Caroline reported on behalf of the election committee. Glenn, John and Tim Perkarek and Caroline counted the ballots. Ken Schechtman and Caitlin Zera won re-election and Stephanie Todd won election for the first time. At EMG January meeting, new members are officially installed and the committee considers officer positions for 2022.

4. SC calendars that EMG purchased are in the office. Caitlin will send out a notice for e-newsletter content. Send in ideas for stories, pictures and links. Tim and Caitlin will develop the e-newsletter.
5. Caroline reported that the chapter legislative committee had its first call regarding 2022 session last week. Michael has developed a data base for the committee. There will be plenty of issues to engage in. Anyone interested in being in the legislative network let Caroline or Michael know. The committee is also looking for a volunteer chair.
6. Democracy committee has a call this Friday at 11:00. Redistricting is still on the agenda
7. Conservation committee – Caroline reported that floodplain development in Maryland Heights is still an issue. Toni Armstrong and others attended recent zoning hearing. Also, the Webster Groves controversial development was voted down unanimously earlier this month. Floodplain development was an issue there too, but most opposition seemed to be impact to Shady Creek, traffic and the size of the project. Stephanie reported on her discussion with representatives from the No Spray Coalition. This is a national level group which takes a rather “no compromise” position. She suggests our best role may be to share information about related topics and to look for opportunities to reduce or eliminate pesticide use on smaller scale projects. The committee agreed with this approach.
We know there is interest among our membership with pollinator protections and discouraging the use of pesticides. Stephanie has recently been contacted by a volunteer who was interested in our “no fogging” campaign.
The chapter is hosting a Chapter conservation zoom event tomorrow, Dec 15. Let Caroline know if you need a link to that event. Groups are asked to designate one member to participate and be a link back to the group. Stephanie has volunteered to do that for EMG.
8. John reported that the Dec 4-5 trail building weekend at Hawn State park was a success. George is planning a Feb 12 trail outings workshop.
9. We discussed plans to watch power-point on Transforming Culture Through Bystander Interventions. We agreed 4th Thursday in Jan would be good time. Who should we invite besides Excom? Ashton will ask if Gretchen is available that evening.
10. Ashton asked EMG to consider signing on to a letter to ST Louis City Mayor about process for consideration of reparations plan for the city. We had a brief discussion of the topic. Several members had not had time to read the whole letter. We decided to take a vote via email with responses due in time to meet the Thursday deadline.
11. Next meeting is Jan 11, 2022.