

EMG ExCom Minutes 11-10-2020 - draft

In attendance: John Feldman, Ken Schechtman, Robert Roberson, Tim Elwell, Toni Armstrong, Caitlin Zera

Guests, Caroline Pufalt, Toni Armstrong, Debi Pratt

Approval of minutes - passed unanimously

Treasurer's Update – Robert reported that he has not yet been able to get fully set up on bank account and Quicken records and it appears Quicken has not been updated. Robert could be a Deputy on the account and help with Dual Control. Without access, Robert has not yet been able to access those. Ken will follow up with Gretchen. Robert can assist with reconciling, uploading items to Quicken, and paying bills if needed.

Howard Bend Levee/Maryland Hts development -Toni Armstrong reported an update on Creve Coeur Development - Maryland Heights proposed TIFF to channelize the creeks, etc around Howard Bend Levee. TIFF commission voted this down in Jan 2020 after our environmental coalition advocacy. Recently, City of Maryland Heights is trying to rezone around Little Creve Coeur Lake which is an important bird habitat. Bob Menees (GRELC) told the city that their original plan would not be able to happen without permits from the federal government because the city wanted to drain the water into Little Creve Coeur Lake. They are trying now to propose 7 buildings and parking lots for 1100 cars on the other side of Little Creve Coeur Lake in the floodplain. The water will drain into a giant pit. But if there is a heavy rain event and the pit overflows it will go into Little Creve Coeur Lake anyway. Right now the developer is providing all the info. We are looking for a Civil Engineer to do their own assessment. Planning and Zoning meeting tonight, which Toni will attend remotely. Likely the P & Z will send it to the city council. STL Audubon is submitting a letter of opposition if it goes to the City Council. Ex Com could prepare a letter if it goes to the City Council. Toni will let us know if it is going to the City Council. Robert asked if it would be useful to compare Howard Bend to the Earth City Levee, given that EC Levee has a huge pump. Caitlin moved to write a letter in opposition to the West Port Logistics Center in Maryland Heights to be submitted to the Maryland Heights City Council should it go before the council. Tim seconds. Passes unanimously.

Chapter Events Upcoming Nov 21, Conservation Committee seeking an EMG Representative. Something to think about - first meeting will be in January

Outings/Trails Report from John Feldmann- We have not been able to do outings or work in Roger Pryor as in the past. Some SC members helped at Hawn State Park under the organization Friends of Hawn State Park. Not officially as SC. National mandate that no outings take place currently

Conservation Report from Caroline Pufalt–

Bangert Island Environmental Assessment is out. It's a private EA since the project is not federally funded. We will be ramping up to request support from our members in that region. Caroline is looking at the EA, with help from our allies, to prepare for when Bangert starts applying for permits. That's when we can intervene and figure out what grounds we can be opposed. We need to activate St. Charles City members on this issue.

Webster Groves development near Shady Creek Natural Area - affordable apartments. Caroline talked to John Hickey who lives in Webster and is part of volunteer group which works on Shady Creek. After John attended meetings and looked at plan, thinks the development could be okay. The developers might put funds and certainly support toward Shady Creek habitat projects (invasive removal, cleanup etc). Jim Rhodes feels like the project is not a good idea because the footprint is too big, Jim did not attend the project plan presentations but has looked at the diagrams. The exchange among Caroline, Jim, and John happened last week and is ongoing. Caroline will check in. Debi Pratt can forward info to Jeanie Kirkton who lives in Webster and is on EMG Pol Comm if we want additional Webster resident perspective.

Review of the Privatization of the Airport guidance document Caroline put together so we will have something to refer to in the future, as we are pretty sure this issue will not go away. It is an internal document that will serve as a guide. John Feldmann made a motion to endorse the guidance policy on privatization that Caroline has written. Caitlin seconds the motion. 4 approve. 1 opposed. Motion passes. The guidance is as follows:

"Any effort to alter ownership or control of St Louis' airport should be conducted with full transparency and public disclosure. A decision to relinquish St Louis City ownership of the airport should be put to a public vote.

Any proposal to sell or share control of the airport should be evaluated on terms of whether the proposed change:

- 1. will not increase environmental risks common to airports**
- 2. will guard against gratuitous profits, especially as taken at expense of employee compensation and working conditions.**
- 3. will include opportunities for metro area cooperation "**

Elections Report from Debi Pratt - Statewide not the results we wanted. Trish Gunby, and Paula Brown remain. Jill Schupp remains a state senator. We have a lot of work ahead for the next 2 years. As soon as we can safely make trips to Jeff we will. Amendment 3 passed - small chance we could pursue a lawsuit over the language which was deceptive. Lots of debriefing. We hope to retain some volunteers from the CLEAN MO & No on 3 campaigns if and when we decide the next step. Outside chance, but still a chance. Please thank the local candidates we endorsed who didn't make it, especially Erica Hoffman, Deb Lavender, Richard Orr, Bob Otto and any others.

We'll be playing defense for a while. We'll have to take some different strategies. Michael, and legislative committee will challenge us in 2021.

We will count ballots for EMG Excom on Dec 3. Don't forget to mail in your ballot. Also remember there is a chapter Excom election too in which to vote.

Next meeting is December 8 at 6:30pm virtually.