

Minutes

Meeting 10/10/17, starts at 7:02pm. Late start time to graciously accommodate Caitlin and Paul attending the St. Louis County Council meeting to keep a pulse on the Creve Coeur Park issue.

In attendance: Paul, Henry, Rob, Caitlin, Doug, and Ken

1. **Approval of September minutes.** No changes.

2. **Budget Report:** Rob reports on Festival of Little Hills income; Ken asks whether or not we developed a budget for last year as our current finances are in good standing. Rob indicates there was one prepared but ExCom may not have voted on it.

Because we are in financially good standing there is discussion of potentially spending funds on priority campaigns. Henry recommends Ready for 100 or other conservation campaigns.

Henry and Ken lead a discussion on how as an ExCom we may be becoming too content or complacent because we do not need to raise substantial funds and Chapter staff often engages members in initiatives and recruits volunteers. If EMG specifically reaches out to volunteers who have already been volunteering through Chapter, is this too much a demand on volunteers' time? ExCom can identify ways to better work with Chapter staff and find ways to connect with volunteers without taxing them.

For a priority campaign like Ready for 100, Henry will develop a campaign outline/plan and bring it back to the next ExCom meeting. Ask Caroline if she would like to do the same. These outlines will be major topics of discussion at the next meeting. Henry sees next steps for Ready for 100 as following up with Mayors who have signed on and helping them create achievable plans to meet their goals. We need to find people (ideally Sierra Club members and community activists) in the communities to work on implementing the Ready for 100 plans. Caitlin will help with finding some members in communities (she will reach out to Gretchen and Michael about finding Sierra Club members in zipcodes where Mayors have committed to Ready for 100). We can also identify groups like the Florissant Environmental Quality Committee who previously reached out to Henry.

3. **Monthly meetings 2018:** For the rest of this year, we will have MDC in October and Photo Slideshow in November. Ideas for January and February? Paul recommends developing a list of subjects we're interested in and then seeking speakers based on those topics. Ken stresses that we need to know the speakers credentials - they should be engaging and we should know they are good at public speaking. For January, Henry will reach out to the Mayor of Maplewood (Greenberg) to come and talk about Maplewood's Ready for 100 plan. Caitlin will find an Environmental Justice speaker for February; she is attending Webster U's Enviro Justice Conference 10/11-12 and will keep an eye out for a good speaker.

4. **Candidate Statements Due:** Rob and Ken will send in ASAP; Caitlin sent hers in to Caroline. It is important to complete SierraScape soon so that voting will not be impacted by holiday season.

5. **Outings Report and Trail Maintenance:** Doug reports. The trail maintenance outing in Current River State Park starts on Friday 10/13, then additional volunteers are joining Saturday 10/14 to Sunday 10/22. This is the annual 10 day volunteer service outing in Current River State Park. Becky organized the last meeting of leaders to set goals and check in on number volunteers - looks the turnout will be good. First weekend work will be trail-building. During the week, volunteers will work on trail maintenance to keep the trail clean. The second weekend will be collaborating with Ozark Trail Association to work on the trail from Round Spring to Current River State Park. Expected turnout from Sierra Club is around 62-63 people. This includes 12 outings leaders and 2 "almost" outings leaders (leaders in training). This will be enough leaders to oversee work and break volunteers into roughly 4 teams to go out each day.

Doug brings forth the possibility of the MO Chapter becoming an American Red Cross Authorized Provider to teach first aid, etc (14 courses offered). This just requires filling out form, no money to become a provider. Doug talked with Sasha Parish, Senior Outdoor Recreation Manager for Sierra Club; Sasha indicated that

the idea of MO Chapter becoming an Authorized Provider was good (other groups, chapters, and sections have done this). Doug recommends the whole MO Chapter becomes a provider so that all groups could get the discount for individual courses. Doug put a letter together to Sarah Wiley detailing this recommendation and will request that the Chapter fill out the form. At the Conservation Leadership Meeting the past week, Doug talked to Eileen McManis from Thomas Hart Benton Group, and her feedback about becoming a provider was positive. THBG goes through American Red Cross each time, and it is not discounted. If Chapter becomes a provider the groups would get discounted rates on courses. Doug might be needing reimbursement for travel if he becomes the liaison which he offered to do. Doug asks for EMG feedback on this issue. After some positive discussion, there is no need to vote; no one has objections and generally everyone feels like this is a good idea.

Doug inquires with Rob about his reimbursement for his previous Red Cross training. Rob checks that Doug was not yet reimbursed. Will get taken care of.

Doug asks if there are any changes from August minutes as Doug did not bring them last month. ExCom raises no concerns or modifications.

6. Conservation Report - Caroline is not present but Caitlin reports on the County Council meeting and Creve Coeur Park. The two bills pertaining to work at Creve Coeur Park were "held" or tabled until next week (Bills 190, 241 and 249). Citizen Robert Anderson spoke - asked Councilman Page about the bulldozer out at the park this past weekend. It is accordingly for the re-seeding effort which should be hopefully done by end of October. We will have to wait until next week for those bills to be heard again.

Doug and Henry report on the Ozark Summit coordinated by Jennifer. Doug, Henry, and Caroline attended. Topics included the ONSR Management Plan, the Arcadia pipeline, the 4 new state parks, and the Enviro Assessment on Spire pipeline as well as a float trip, Henry felt the meeting was very productive; met new people and new activists. Henry is following up with Juli Viel on Spire.

7. Staff time - John is not present, will report next time.

Other business:

Rob passes around the "Welcome to Sierra Cub" phone call sign in sheet from new staffer Andy as we have a lot of new members to welcome.

Caitlin will check in with Caroline and Don Barnes about SierraScape.

8. Next meeting is 11/14/17 at 6:30pm.

Task List:

1. Henry to develop Ready for 100 campaign outline, ask Caroline if she would like to do one for Conservation
2. Caitlin will follow-up with Gretchen and Michael about Ready for 100 activists
3. Henry and Caitlin will reach out to January and February monthly speakers
4. Rob and Ken will send in Candidate Statements.
5. Doug will send a letter to Sarah W. about the Red Cross
6. Rob will follow up on Doug's reimbursement

7. Henry will follow up with Juli Viel about Spire pipeline

8. Caitlin will check in about SierraScape