

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 7, 6:15pm
City CoHo (2401 Walnut St) – Fishbowl (1st Floor)
Call-In – 866-501-6174 Code – 1004100#

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beaudet, Sue Edwards, Kevin Little, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Dennis Winters, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: John Butler, Ken Hemphill, Jim Kaff, Prasad Ramnath,

ExCom Members Absent:

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Zakia Elliott, Erin Freeman, Karen Melton

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie at 6:15. [Agenda](#)

Note: Since this meeting was planned to end at 7:00 for the Education Program, information and discussion of the issues took place via email.

Secretary: This minutes were accepted with the addition of Pat Beaudet to the communication committee leadership in the “Executive Committee Organization” section.

Treasurer:

C3 Balance (No Change)	\$6,739
C4 Beginning Balance (Nov 1):	\$12,241
Income	\$2,500
Expenditures	\$440
Ending Balance	\$13,602

The treasurer’s report was accepted.

Dennis moved that the budget be accepted. John seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Jim presented the conservation budget.

Conservation Budget:

Projects	Funds Remaining	2018 income	Total
Pipelines	\$0	\$500	\$500
RF100/Philly	\$1,327	\$300	\$1,627
RF100/Chesco	\$500	\$0	\$500
RF100/Montco	\$0	\$500	\$500
DSM	\$752	\$300	\$1,052
Chester Co - Paint	\$1,000	(\$300)	\$700
Small new projects		\$2,000	\$2,000
Totals	\$3,579	\$3,300	\$6,879

Dennis moved that we accept the budget as presented. Pat seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Political Committee: (Dennis Winters)

Working groups are being set up in each county. Alexa Manning will head up the Chester Co. committee, Mike Hayes, the Montgomery Co. Committee and Jim Kaff in Bucks County. Philadelphia and Delaware counties both have committees but no assigned leader.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton / Kevin Little)

As decided at the previous meeting, the locations will change for the executive Committee meetings this year. These are the locations set to this date:

April: Swarthmore College, Program: Students will present Environmental Projects they are doing

June: Doylestown Library, Program possibilities: Pipelines, DRBC

August: To be determined, site in Jenkintown being considered.

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

Dennis moved and Dave seconded that Sue Edwards fill the remainder of Margaret Nerston's term. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat asked that the converting the remaining portion of the seat being vacated by Mat to a 2 year term be moved to the discussion agenda. She was concerned about violating the bylaws. Dennis moved that the seat being vacated become a 2-year position. If the motion passed, the seats being held by John Butler, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Prasad Ramnath and Jim Wylie will expire in 2019 and the seats being held by Pat Beaudet, Sue Edwards, Ken Hemphill, Alexa Manning and Dave Moscatello will expire in 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Because of a job change, Mat has resigned from his leadership role in the Communications Committee.

Outings Committee: (Jim Kaff / Amy Kwasnicki)

During the last month the following activities have taken place related to SPG outings:

-Amy K conducted two tabling events to recruit and vet potential OLs. These both occurred at the UBB (United by Blue) bookstore. She made presentations regarding OL and ICO. Around 6 persons from these events will be attending the 2/17 and or 2/18 OL and ICO sessions.

-Amy K will be conducting OL101 and Equity, Inclusion and Justice sessions at City Coho 2/17; she will also be conducting ICO training (unrelated to SPG) 2/18. Can we please remind Ex-Com members that technically it is a requirement for Ex-Com members to have undergone Equity, Inclusion, and Justice training, and any Ex-Com member who has not do so is welcome at the upcoming session 2/17 from 1:30 to 4 at City Coho. Jim and Amy are trying to connect with past leaders and have invited them to this session

- Future outing will include clean up and planting events and possibly a Kayak safety training.

Several outing are being offered in conjunction with other organizations

Several housekeeping notes:

Prior to this time no single repository has been used for OL documents (Trip Plans, Red Cross certifications, re-certifications, etc). We will begin to use the Google folder that Wylie set up last year.

We have a lot of OLs that are not yet on Meetup and Campfire, so we are promoting that. -We are going through and refreshing existing OLs to see if and how we can support and activate/re-activate existing OLs.

3 outings are currently approved through 4/21 with 3 others in planning.

1 outing was held in the last month that was lightly attended due to weather, it was 20°F

Old Business

New Business

[EV Task Force Response](#)

Members of the Philadelphia Ready for 100 team presented their response to on draft policy recommendations of the Philadelphia Office of Transportation and Infrastructure System's Electric Vehicle Policy Task Force and asked if it could come from the SEPA Sierra Club group. Dave moved and Jim seconded that the letter be sent from Sierra Club of SEPA. The motion passed.

Senate Bill 15:

We are encouraged to ask our senators to co-sponsor this bill currently in the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. This bill would reduce greenhouse gas emission by 30% (from 2005 levels) by 2025. A number of organizations are working on this including Penn Environment

Local Sierra Staff:

Zakia Elliott and Erin Freeman explained their roles in Sierra Club. Erin is working to rebuild the group in North Eastern PA and the Delaware River Basin. She is doing this by increasing contact through outings. Zakia is working with Philly Climate Works, a coalition of environmental groups. They are trying to expand their connections to community groups and labor organizations.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

An education program followed this meeting. Jerome Shabazz, Executive Director of the Overbrook Environmental Education Center spoke passionately about the center's journey to transform a hazardous brownfield into a treasured community resource.

Consent Agenda

- Approve [budget for 2018](#) – overall spending (we approved the framework in Jan. Just double checking)
- Approve Conservation budget – detailed allocations for 6 old and TBD new projects
- Approve Sue Edwards to fill the remainder of Margaret Nersten’s ExCom term which expires end of 2018
- Approve converting Mat’s term to a 2 year term starting Jan 2018 so that all 6 newly elected ExCom members will have 2 year terms
- Accept the [January meeting minutes](#)

What the consent agenda means to me – we take a vote on the above items individually. We have already discussed via email and are not allocating any time tonight. It does not mean you are expected to vote up or down.

Discussion Agenda

- Alternate ExCom/Ed program meeting venues
- Political committee
- Communications
- Parade committee
- Conservation committee

Education Program – starting at 7:00 (7:15 at the latest)

We are pleased to welcome **Jerome Shabazz, Executive Director** of the **Overbrook Environmental Education Center** who will tell us about the journey to transform a hazardous brownfield into a treasured community resource.

The Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC) is a community center dedicated to Environmental Education, Conservation, Public Health and Personal Enrichment.

OEEC is an active member of the city's Environmental Justice and Sustainability community and a model for how to repurpose aging urban infrastructure to meet community needs.

Join us to hear OEEC Director Jerome Shabazz talk about its history and current programs, with goals for a healthier neighborhood, student learning opportunities, and green stormwater infrastructure. An inspirational figure, Shabazz led the effort that turned a hazardous dump into an oasis for play, gardening, education and sense of place.

Here is a brief Grid Magazine profile of Mr. Shabazz from 2015: <http://www.gridphilly.com/grid-magazine/2015/9/2/jarome-shabazz-the-visionary>

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**Comment Letter on draft policy recommendations of the
Philadelphia Office of Transportation and Infrastructure System's Electric Vehicle Policy Task Force**

We offer enthusiastic support for the Electric Vehicle Policy Task Force that created this report and its recommendations. There are a number of other initiatives in different stages of development that address pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation, streets, walkways and trails, etc. which would benefit from being cross-referenced here. Taken together, the goal is to change our reliance on traditional, fossil fuel dependent vehicles to safer and carbon-free means of transportation.

To this end, we suggest in the present document incorporating a section on use of shared electric vehicles (SEV) and the infrastructure they require. SEV would diminish the need for personal vehicles, lessen congestion throughout the city, decrease street and lot parking, and provide affordable, occasionally-needed vehicles for lower income families and individuals who do not own cars. The mission of Philly Car Share (PCS) was to reduce the number of vehicles on the streets and there is demonstrated success. For example, in 2007, PCS estimated that it had removed the need for more than 15,000 cars in Philadelphia, saved one million gallons of gas through the use of hybrids and reduced driving, saved each of its members \$4,000; and reduced pollution by eliminating 16 million driven miles.¹

This report considers EV's as part of the transportation infrastructure but it completely overlooks their transformative role in the electrical grid infrastructure as energy storage for distributed solar. Over the next two decades roughly half of all rooftops will have solar panels according to projections by the Office of Sustainability. oTIS can accelerate the penetration of solar by incentivizing solar EV pairs in residences.

Strategy 1. We agree that personally-owned charging stations on the curb will not work in Philadelphia for the reasons outlined, and recognizing this issue it is hoped the city will move quickly to make public stations available.

Strategy 2. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure should be required - not just suggested - in off-street parking facilities of new multifamily residences and businesses. Charging docks could be installed first in parking facilities owned by the city and monitoring this inaugural system would provide important information for widespread city installation.

Strategy 3. As discussed above, we recommend adding plans for SEV to complement those detailed for individually owned cars, including parking facilities with dedicated spaces and charging docks.

Strategy 4. Again, more attention needs to be paid to shared vehicle availability, particularly in low income neighborhoods.

Strategy 5. We concur that education is very important to increasing the use of electric vehicles (privately-owned or shared) and easily-understood literature should be presented in all Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Finally, there are many acronyms throughout the document and some are not defined (e.g., NHSL/ MPL/ BSL; PMT). We recommend the addition a list of the abbreviations and their meanings in addition to being shown in the text when first mentioned.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this document.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhillyCarShare#Community_impact

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