

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

September 4, 2019 Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/7825257851>
929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 782 525 7851

ExCom Members Attending: Pratima Agrawal, Tim Beckham, John Butler, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

ExCom Members Absent:

Other Members Attending: Mike Hays, Emily Davis, Meenal Raval

The Meeting was called to order by Jim. [Agenda](#)

Secretary: (Emily Davis) Minutes for June, July and August were approved

Treasurer: (Emily Davis)

C4: Beginning Balance: \$20,329.19

Checking

Beginning Balance: \$17,333.60

Income: \$ 0

Expenditure: \$ 2,271.30 (DSM, Boat Rental, RF100-Montco Conference)

Ending Balance: \$15,062.30

PayPal

Beginning Balance: \$ 2,995.56

Income: \$ 933.11

Expenditures: \$ 0

Ending Balance: \$ 3,928.67

C4 Ending Balance: \$18,990.97

C3: Beginning Balance: \$ 8,599.73

Income: \$ 5,009.41 (\$5,000-Foundation, \$9.14- PayPal)

Expenditures: \$ 0

Ending Balance: \$13,609.14

Standing Committee Reports

Nomination Committee:

Tim and Prasad are resigning from the Ex Com. Time explained his reasons for leaving

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie, Dave Moscatello)in September

Ready for 100

Philadelphia: The team expects the resolution to be presented in September, perhaps on the 26th. It is co-sponsored by Maria Quiñones .Sanchez and Blondell Reynolds-Brown

Bucks County: Bucks County will have a kick-off meeting at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown. Jim Kaff is helping with the contact of endorsed candidates in the county. A facebook boost was suggested for this event.

Montgomery County: Lower Merion passed the resolution unanimously.

Delaware County: Swarthmore vote is coming up.

Chester County: The Ready for 100 team in Chester County is sponsoring a Clean Energy Tour in conjunction with the National Solar Tour. There will be 4 loops with 4 starting locations and tours in both the morning and the afternoon.

Solarize Southeast PA: Meenal has had requests from all 5 counties but feels that Ready for 100 teams need to promote it.

Political Committee: (Robin Mann, Jim Wylie)

A second vote was requested for candidates Valerie Arkoosk (previously endorsed) and Ken Lawrence who are running for the office of County Commissioner in Montgomery county. There was a concern when they were considered in August about their unwillingness to commit to divesting of fossil fuel investments in the pension funds. Mike Hays said that these investment were part of index fund with which they have little control. A second vote to endorse Arkoosh and Lawrence passed 9 to 0.

Our endorsements of Elaine Schaefer, Monica Taylor, Christine Reuther (all running for Delaware County Council), and Josh Maxwell and Marian Moscovitz (both running for Chester County Commissioner) were approved

Our recommendation for Sherrie Cohen (Philadelphia City Council at-Large) was not considered since there is a challenge to her place on the ballot. The endorsement will be considered if she wins her appeal.

Another special ExCom meeting will be held for additional municipal offices. Jim suggested September 12.

The chapter is offering an on-line training for volunteers working on political committee. Members must be trained. This is more import now as other groups are just beginning to get involved in the endorsement and candidate support process.

Newsletter/Communications:

The newsletter will be going out on the 15th of September. This is again a joint Chapter and Group newsletter.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton / Kevin Little, Pratima Agrawal)

The documentary film, Tapped, was shown on August 15. We co-sponsored the event with Weaver's Way food cooperative.

New Member Engagement: no report

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

Boat trip (Pat Beaudet)

The first notice went out last Thursday. I kept the price at \$22 per person which is the "at cost" price for the group rate and people are responding to the attractive price for this SRDC tour. Registration is proceeding fairly well - I'd say 15-20 out of 35 seats have been sold. I think we can expect a full boat. I'll send the notice out again in about a week, depending on registration.

If you didn't sign up but want to here's the link:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z000001w7HdQAI>

Franklin Institute Trip: Kevin is planning a trip to the Franklin Institute focusing on the environment. Jim suggested in be considered an outing rather than an educational trip and that he work with Emily Mechling on the project.

Old Business

Chapter Meeting report

Besides the endorsement of candidate, Jen Quinn, reported on a series of bills being presented in the state legislature as an "Energize PA package. These bills (HB 1100 - HB 1107) provide financial support for natural gas industry and weaken regulations. Sierra Club opposes HB 1100, HB1102, HB1103, HB 1105, HB 1106, and HB 1107. It is neutral on the others. SB 619, which weakens

water pollution laws has passed the Senate but not the House – Sierra Club opposes. The Community solar bill (HB 531/SB 705) are in committee and likely to pass if they get out of committee. Another major issue is the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) which some legislators want to repeal.

Fundraising: Zakia and Joanne are beginning to call the “A” list

Air Quality Monitoring: John bought a Purple Air Monitoring device which will be installed in Chester City. If the device provides the information they need, more monitors may be purchased for use in the city.

PES Refinery Site Activity: Several listening sessions have been conducted. The Office of Sustainability is seeking ideas for uses for the site which will provide jobs and transition the city to a greener economy. A fifth meeting of Refinery Advisory Group will be held Sept 9.

New Business.

“Mosquito” Sound makers in Parks: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation department has been using devices that generate a high frequency noise that can not be heard by adults but can be heard by youths. The purpose of the devices is to deter the use of parks after dark by young people. Can Sierra Club develop a position of the use of these devices?

Up Coming Events

Sept 8 - Greenfest - Emily & Pratima (setup), Mena, Dave, Mabari

Sept 13 - PSR event - Friends Center - David Masur w Rep Rabb - EV

Sept 20 - Climate Strike – Philly

Sept 21 – National Drive Electric Week Events

Sept 25 - BYOBag Rally at City Hall

Sept 28 - Mighty Writers - 10 to 4 across from Franklin Inst (Aviator Park) – Mabari is looking for help at this event which will focus on access to the outdoors

Oct 6 - Boat Ride to Bartrams

Oct 19 - Chester County - Clean Energy Tour

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

[return](#)

Agenda

Introductions -

Approve Aug Meeting Minutes

Correction - Meenal was present

Fundraising

Waiting for Joanne & Zakia to call A-list

Then we'll reassess our progress and consider other steps (paper mailer, events, follow up calls, etc)

Report from Chapter ExCom Mtg & Chapter Outing

Endorsements –

Discussion of Montco candidates Lawrence & Arkoosh - When Mike Hayes calls in

Comments for no votes were they didn't commit to divest county pension funds from firms with fossil energy investments but looks like most funds are in index funds. Little control of investments in the index.

Approved by chapter - SPG Endorsement Page - need intro paragraphs!

Upcoming?

When can we call a special ExCom mtg for muni endorsement applications? Jim had suggested 9/12, but will we be ready?

Statewide (?) Newsletter to be published 9/15,

Nominating candidates for Dec ExCom election

Calendar/Events

Sep 8 - Greenfest

Sep 13 - PSR event

Sep 13 - Designing a Green New Deal - Penn event

Sep 20 - Climate Strike(s) Philly

Bucks (Sep 22)

Sep 25 - BYOB Bag Rally at City Hall

Oct 6 - Boat Ride to Bartrams

Oct 19 - Clean Energy Tour

Conservation

RF100

Philly - Sanchez to sponsor RF100 resolutions - (not public)

Montco - Upper Merion (King of Prussia) passes RF100 resolution

Chesco/Montco report written by Chloe Selles - intended to help other RF100 projects in PA

RF100/Bucks Kickoff Meeting

Solarize Southeast PA - status and challenge -

Chesco - 1 signed, 3 to installer, 15 with me, 32 without address

Delco - 6 signed, 34 to installer, 19 with me, 34 without address

Montco & Bucks - 6 signed, 25 to installer, 46 with me, 17 without address

Philly - 1 signed, 4 with installer, 25 with me, 2 without address

Transition Town Media promoted this, Sierra Club mailing today brought in 21 leads, our own RF100 teams aren't promoting it, even though developed for them. Eg Plymouth, Springfield

Sep 19 - RF100 reaches Bucks

Refinery in Phila - business ideas?

Sep 9 -- 5th meeting of Refinery Advisory Group -- business

PFAS in Warminster

Action Alert

PFAS Action Kit

New Business

The air monitor for Chester has arrived and need to install. They have agreed to fund a second one next to the PQ plant. They have requested a meeting with DEP to address the emissions from this plant. No date set but trying for this month.

Recycling - Marple township last week stopped picking up any recycling in plastic bags that causes problems at processing plants. Some towns are talking about eliminating recycling because of costs. Real reason is lack of education on what can be recycled.

What is renewable? Appears SEPTA maybe buying energy from a proposed solar farm but not the renewable REC's.

Energy Coop - They will be offering RNG to PGW customers. Most likely from landfill gas.

[return](#)