

EMG ExCom Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2023

EMG ExCom: members present: Ken Schechtman, Diana Oleskevich, Stephanie Todd, Kate Dawson, Caitlin Zera, Jim Rhodes, Matt Self

Non-ExCom members: Caroline Pufalt

Approved June 13th minutes

Reviewed Action Items from June Meeting

Resolved Action Items are embedded in the meeting minutes

Action item remaining open from June:

Action: Appoint a member that lives in Brentwood to keep tabs on Brentwood Bound.

Appointee only needs to follow status of the area designated as wetlands. Caroline will follow-up

Action: Caroline to contact Bill Otto to get information on Bangert Island and ask him for help with the effort.

Zoom Account

- Zoom account for EMG and Outings Committee for \$180/year was approved unanimously.

Follow-up to Task Reviewer Discussion – Caitlin

Caitlin has put a Project Tracker on Google Drive in a folder under the Chapter Drive. As the secretary, Stephanie will put the action items on the drive and the person responsible for the action will add status and close it when completed.

Action: Stephanie to put action items on Google Drive

Treasurer's Report and Budget

- Approved Treasurer's report. See attached June 2023 EMG Financial Summary
- Caitlin and Stephanie put together a draft budget but it still needs more work.
- ExCom unanimously approved putting \$40,000 in CDs at Fidelity with the breakdown as follows: \$10,000 for each of the following periods 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 1 year.
- ExCom unanimously approved \$360/month to the Chapter for office space from July to December 2023
- **Action:** Jim, Ken, and Stephanie to open an account at Fidelity and all three will have signature authority.
- **Action:** Jim, Caitlin, and Stephanie will meet to put together a draft budget that can be reviewed at the August ExCom meeting.

Newsletter - Caitlin

- Sierra Scape going out by the end of September. Will include ballot.

Nominating Committee

- Four people up for election: Ken, Caitlin, Stephanie, and Kathy. In addition, Diane is resigning from ExCom.
- Final nominations should be chosen by September.
- Jim Rhodes and Caroline volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee

Action: Inform members of the upcoming election in July e-newsletter and include link to apply to be a candidate

Action: Caitlin: Ask will ask David Campbell to be on the committee. Stephanie will ask Jean Nock

Discussion of Task Reviewer

Caitlin has put a shared folder on Chapter's Google Drive that will track status of items the ExCom is working on.

Outings/ trails committee – John Feldmann

A group of 20+ volunteers from US Bank will help with trail work at Castlewood State Park on October 6th.

Member Events – Caitlin

- The Member Event held at Urban Chestnut about the four new state parks was a big success with approximately 32 people attending. The blended event format with dinner followed by the presentation worked well.
- The next Member Event will be held Sept 28 at the Visitor Center in Forest Park. It will be a presentation on Electric Vehicles

Lemonade – John Feldman

- The volunteer email for lemonade sales at Festival of the Little Hills on August 18-20th is set to go out to EMG members in the St. Louis area. We will need about 40 volunteers to staff the booth for the three days.
- We have procured a new hot spot card to use for sales.

Bob Gestel bequest – John Feldman

The funding to hire three staff to help build the new 4.5 mile trail at Hawn State Park has been officially approved by The Sierra Club Foundation. This will be transferred to Missouri State Parks Foundation as soon as it is approved by their board.

Conservation Report - Caroline

- Caroline and Stephanie attended a meeting of the No Spray Coalition and provided updates on the bill. Daniel Romano and Barb Chicherio, the two main leaders of the No Spray Coalitional, are meeting with alders from wards one and six on July 20th to discuss the bill. The bill will be revised based on their comments but until then no further revisions are being made to the bill.
- The bill is called the Healthy Outdoor Parks and Public Spaces (HOPPS) Bill.
- ExCom agreed that the bill is not perfect and will most likely be revised. However, it is a start and will build awareness of pesticides. Also, the bill can always be amended once it is passed.
- A motion was made by Stephanie to officially endorse the bill. Diana seconded. Approved unanimously

Action: Diana lives in Ward 6 and will call her alderperson to support the bill.

Next meeting is August 15.