

EMG ExCom Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2023

EMG ExCom: members present: Ken Schechtman, Diana Oleskevich, Jean Nock, Stephanie Todd, Kathryn Dawson, Caitlin Zera
Non-ExCom members: Caroline Pufalt

Approved May 8th minutes

Reviewed Action Items

Action: Decision on how PayPal fees should be reported on treasurer report

Follow-up; Stephanie reported that PayPal fees will be noted as an expense. The entire amount, including the expense will be considered as a donation.

Action: No Spray Coalition Bill for St. Louis City

Follow-up: Stephanie contacted Daniel Romano and attended a meeting- will report status as a separate agenda item

Action: Caroline requested EMG give a \$300 donation to River Sounding annual event in September.

Follow-up: Caroline will make donation directly.

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

Action Item still open: Appointee only needs to follow status of the area designated as wetlands. Still need to appoint someone.

Zoom Account

- Background: Caroline requested Zoom account for Sierra Club Conservation Committee – Caitlin thinks we can get an account from either National or Chapter. Have EMG account but tied to Square.

Action: Caitlin will check into a Zoom account for EMG.

Discussion on appointing a Task Reviewer

Discussed appointing someone to keep track of action items, their status and when items as closed.

Treasurer's Report

- See attached May 2023 EMG Financial Summary
- Recommend making a budget – then if it is in the budget, do not need ExCom approval.
- Recommend putting money in CD.
- Approved treasurer report
- **Request:** Transfer PayPal donations monthly as good practice
- **Action:** Jim to investigate CDs and bring recommendation to July meeting
- **Action:** Stephanie to put together budget; calendar year. Caitlin will help.

Proposed Bill from St. Louis No Spray Coalitional – Stephanie

- The St. Louis No Spray Coalitional has asked EMG to endorse a draft ordinance for St. Louis City prohibiting pesticides and herbicides on all public lands.
- No Spray Coalition is trying to build a coalition with other organizations.
- Currently, the No Spray Coalition is going to leave the bill as is and talk to friendly alder people to see what they think, especially about exception process. Then tweak bill.
- ExCom likes the idea of an ordinance to reduce pesticides. However, it would be good to talk to some aldermen and revise bill accordingly.
- Would like an alderman to make the request to prohibit certain pesticides with no exemptions, i.e., neonicides
- Best if we could talk to other groups about the proposed wording.
- Exemption process is seen as a problem with the bill. It is very cumbersome and no guidance is given as to what pesticides should be granted exemptions.

Action: Caroline will talk to Missouri Coalition for the Environment

- **Action:** Find a local expert that the Alderman could use as a consultant for granting exemptions. Not assigned
- **Action:** Diana will call her alderperson. She lives in the city.
- **Action:** Would really like no exceptions for neocides. Stephanie will talk to Daniel Romano.

Newsletter - Caitlin

- Submit articles for next newsletter by June 19. Target date to send out is June 23. Print will come out in the fall. Planning on less articles and more pictures. The fall newsletter will contain the ballot for Ex-Com members

Nominating Committee

- Four people up for election.
- For the Nominating Committee, need three to four people that are not on ExCom.
- Candidates should be chosen by September.
- **Action:** promote in next e-newsletter and include link to apply to be a candidate

Discussion of Task Reviewer

- **Action:** Caitlin to investigate putting status on Chapter's Google Drive. Will report back next month

Outings/ trails committee – John Feldmann/George

- We continued to have a healthy number of planned outings as summer approaches. Meetup is getting expanded usage for the outings program.
- We had 15 volunteers for the May Roger Pryor backcountry trail work event. The LAD Foundation barbecue was well attended by our volunteers. It looks like we will be able to stay at Current River State Park lodge in the fall (tentatively scheduled for October 20 to 25th).

- Ten people attended the float trip with the Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Jason Lott thanked us for our continued interest in following the Roads and Trails Management plan implementation.

Lemonade:

Starting to plan for the August 18th thru 20th Festival of the Little Hills lemonade. We will be using Pretzel Boys pretzels on Sunday instead of Gus's pretzels because Gus is no longer open on Sunday. Sign will be posted stating all money goes to protect environment. Will be able to use Hot spot card for payments.

Bob Gestel bequest (BGB):

The BGB Committee is waiting to hear back from the Sierra Club Foundation for approval of the request to send the Missouri State Parks Foundation \$46,517.85 for new trail work by an AmeriCorp crew at Hawn State Park. Sierra Club Foundation requested wording changes on the request document last week.

Conservation Report by Caroline

- Caroline – Toured Bangert Island.
- Sierra Club endorsed Bill Otto and he won.

Action: Contact Bill Otto to get information on Bangert Island and ask him for help.

June 29 – Member Event

- Presentation on the four new state parks will be given by a Park Ranger. Presentation starts at 7:00 at Urban Chestnut in the Grove. Snacks will be provided. Get together for dinner starts at 5:30
- Dinner for the speaker will be paid for and will start at 6:00.
- Approximately 20 registered to date.

Chapter Staffing Update - Caroline

Michael Berg – departure date is unclear.
Beyond Coal personnel – may be some changes

Next meeting is July 11.