

## EMG ExCom Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2023

EMG ExCom: members present: Ken Schechtman, Matthew Self, Diana Oleskevich, Jean Nock, Stephanie Todd

Non-ExCom members: Caroline Pufalt, Jim Rhodes, John Feldmann, Ashton Kuehnel, Kathryn Dawson

### 1. Approved April 11 minutes

### 2. Treasurer's Report – Jim Rhodes

- See attached April 2023 EMG Financial Summary
  - Lemonade sales were main source of income, generating approximately \$4500 in total revenue. All expenses are not yet in so profit/income is not determined. Sales were significantly below last year due to the cold weather.
  - Gretchen was reimbursed in April for a past Quicken expense.
  - Discussion was held on how the PayPal fee should be reported.

**Action:** Jim Rhodes and Stephanie will investigate how this fee should be recorded.

### 3. Proposed Bill from St. Louis No Spray Coalitional

- 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.
- The board generally agrees with the intent of the bill but it needs some clarification and the board would like more information. Including:
  - o Plan needs to clarify when management plan will be implemented.
  - o We need to understand what pesticides are allowed.
  - o Best if there is some alternative to Roundup, but that is not our job to determine

**Action:** Stephanie to schedule Zoom call with Daniel Romano from No Spray Coalition to obtain more information.

**Action:** Stephanie to gather feedback from ExCom and forward to Daniel

**Action:** XXXX to write article for newsletter and request feedback from members. Caitlin to put article in newsletter.

4. **St. Louis County Board Bill 86** – Assume bill is attempting to go after panhandling but is very vague. Bill makes it illegal for pedestrians to use the street if there is a sidewalk and there are questions about bicyclists. Sierra Club is opposing. Vote is tonight. Ashton will provide updates. Oklahoma City tried to pass similar law that was struck down in court.
5. **Newsletter** - Caitlin not here to report on newsletter but articles are due by mid-May. Best to send articles as soon as possible.

### 6. Outings/ trails committee – John Feldmann

- We continue to see expanded outings committee leaders leading hikes. The newer leaders are co-leading hikes with experienced leaders.
- Matt Self continues the monthly stewardship work days at Castlewood and Don Robinson State Parks.

- We have roughed in about 1.5 miles of the new 4.5 mile trail at Hawn State Park.
- John is leading a trail work effort at Roger Pryor backcountry May 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. There are about a dozen people attending and staying at Current River State Park lodge. On Thursday evening the 18<sup>th</sup> we have been invited to a barbecue from the LAD Foundation Board of Directors.

#### **Lemonade:**

According to Jim Young we grossed about \$4700 and netted about \$3000 from Earth Day lemonade. This compares to last year's record \$9200 gross and \$7000 net. Saturday cold weather hurt our sales. However, tips saved us. Square brought in just over 50% of proceeds.

#### **Bob Gestel bequest:**

At the last ExCom meeting the expenditure requested to hire three temporary trail workers for 12 weeks in the fall/winter of 2023 at Hawn was approved by the Excom. There is also some money in the request for some bridges on the new trail. Ed Schott and George Behrens are getting the required forms completed and George is coordinating with Chapter funding to get the money transferred to Missouri State Parks Foundation for the Hawn State Park temporary workers.

#### **7. Conservation Report by Caroline**

- Edward provided a written summary of what we have learned about a project called Brentwood Bound and Deer Creek issues in general. The Brentwood Bound project is an effort to reduce flood damage from Deer Creek by creating a broader flood plain connected to Deer Creek. There have been concerns about the effectiveness of the project, but, despite some mishaps, our general assessment is that it is an honest effort.

**Action:** Sierra Club member to keep tabs on oncoming effort.

River Soundings is having their annual event in September at Powder Valley Nature Center. It is a conference with outing element for anyone interested in recreation and management of rivers. The focus is on Missouri rivers. It is free and open to public. Sierra Club has made a modest donation to support in the past.

**Action:** Caroline would like to request a \$300 donation to the event.

#### **8. Fill ExCom Vacancy**

Kathryn Dawson has been nominated to fill the empty position on ExCom. This position will come-up for election in the fall. Motion to elect Kathy to board by Diana, seconded by Matt. Passed unanimously.

#### **9. Chapter Restructuring**

- Ashton will be moving to Chapter administrative work.
- Sierra Club just got a new director. Part of his vision – reinvigorate outings. Missouri is priority for Clean Energy
- Restructuring is hindering hiring a new political lead to replace Michael.

**10. Report from Missouri Chapter Meeting – Matthew**

The meeting was focused on training for fund raising. Currently, no impact on Missouri Chapter employees due to budget cuts.

**11. Next meeting date is June 13.**