

EMG Excom Sept 12, 2023

Excom members present: Ken Schechtman, Caitlin Zera, Matthew Self, Jean Nock

Non-Excom members present: George Behrens, Caroline Pufalt, Jim Rhodes

minutes by Caroline

1. Approved August 2023 minutes
2. Jim provided a written Treasurer's report to all Excom members. Net lemonade sales in St Charles were \$13,277. Jim suggested that we move \$10,000 into a 13-month CD. Ken moved and Matt seconded a motion to "put \$10,000 in CD but not until Jan 2024." Motion passed unanimously. Jim will look into the possibility of Grassroots grants from SC.
3. George has been helping the group manage the bequest from Bob Gestel for trail work. As part of that work, we want to pay LAD for work on the Ozark Trail. We will need to pay them up to \$9,800 later this year. The process of getting reimbursement from the bequest is cumbersome. George asked EMG to commit to making that payment to LAD directly when due. After that EMG can receive reimbursement from the bequest funds. Reimbursement needs to go through the Chapter first. Ken moved and Caitlin seconded that "EMG commits to paying LAD up to \$9800. when that payment is due with the understanding that EMG will be reimbursed from bequest via Chapter." it passed unanimously.
4. Caroline submitted the nomination committee's (Caroline, Jim, Jean) recommendation of five candidates for Excom 2024-25. Those candidates are: Ken, Caitlin, Stephanie Todd, Kathy Dawson and Lisa Dahlgren. EMG Excom voted to accept this slate of candidates. They will appear on the ballot with a write in slot. Each should provide a candidate statement of approximately 200 words and a photo if desired.
5. Caitlin reported that the Sierra Scape is underway with plans for yearly review and ballots & candidate statements. Timing is a bit more flexible because we do not have time sensitive state or federal elections to tie to. Deadline for the E newsletter is Sept 28. Thanks to Tim!
6. September 28 is our next membership event at Forest Park. We will have dinner at the Boathouse with the speaker beforehand.
7. Caroline reported on conservation issues. Thanks to Stephanie for keeping up with calls regarding the HOPs bill (Healthy Outdoor Places) coming through the NO Spray Coalition and supporters. The bill was presented to a few sympathetic Alderpersons; they want more feedback from the City Parks Dept. That dept has said the bill as written

is unworkable. We have asked for more detailed feedback from them for the Alderpersons and us.

Last month we agreed to sign on to a letter to MSD asking MSD to take responsibility to remove debris from stormwater sewers. Caroline recently circulated a copy of MSD's response. MSD is taking some initiative, but not full responsibility. Apparently, they do not have \$ and are putting together a proposal for funds. Caroline suggested Excom members read the letter, it's not that clear on some points.

The Green Party and U City residents are working on a bill regarding reduction of impervious surfaces in the city. A meeting with city officials is scheduled for Oct 3, Caroline will try to attend. We need to do more outreach to U City members to get more involvement. It would be great to have a newly activated volunteer to follow this.

Caroline and Jim reported on the River Soundings event from this weekend. EMG – Caroline donated \$ so EMG was recognized as a supporter. There were some great presentations. Michael Bollinger, SC member, presented on his experience with recovery of Elephant Rock State Park after Ameren dam failure. It was very engaging, and we suggested he be asked to present that to EMG.

8. Sept 23 we have a table at Wildwood festival. Caroline and Ken will attend, we need more helpers though. Time is 10-6. Caroline paid the \$25 fee up front as we were in a time crunch. Caitlin will help get some materials together, copies of recent E newsletter, copies of recent Chapter newsletter, Caroline will get legislative scorecards. Can we print some outings flyers too? Caroline has a MO Wilderness display. Other items? Stephanie will be at the event for Dark Skies.

9. Matt gave outings committee report based on John Feldman's emailed report. Current River State Park trail building in Roger Pryor backcountry outing Oct 20-25. Oct 6 there will be a US Bank volunteer tree planting event at Castlewood, Oct 7 joint event at Hawn State Park. Matt reported that the outings team led a very successful kayaking event over Labor Day.

10. Next EMG Excom meeting will be Oct 10.