

EMG Excom meeting Aug 11 2020 -

Excom members present: Ken, Caitlin, Robert, John, Tim

Non excom members: Caroline, Ross

1. Approved July minutes
2. EMG Political committee report and request for endorsement votes presented by Ross. We discussed the following 4 state representative candidates which EMG political committee recommended: H78 Aldridge, H83 Doll, H92 Burton, H98 Schaefer. Caitlin moved, and Tim seconded that we endorse these candidates. The motion was approved unanimously.

We discussed Senate District 5 in which Steve Roberts is the candidate. He is incumbent who did vote against better standards for coal ash ponds. Michael Berg will discuss that with him. His other voting record was good. Robert moved, and John seconded that we endorse Roberts. That motion passed unanimously.

Reminder that Sept 1 is a chapter Zoom fundraising call. Then Sept through Oct the chapter has phone banking for various candidates through our remote call system. See email from Michael Berg for details.

3. No change in Treasurers report from last month.
4. Ken circulated draft statement regarding EMG's support of Black Lives Matter movement. His statement addresses the moral imperative of achieving full racial equity. We discussed whether the statement should include any specific actions or campaigns EMG will be working on to achieve equity. We agreed to table this. But we do want to include some statement of commitment in upcoming Sierra Scape. We have about 3 weeks to do that.

Caitlin suggested as many as possible participate in Thursday's equity call, consider the reading etc.

5. Candidates for EMG excom need to get their statements in. Caroline or Caitlin will contact Segolene. At this point we know that John (Feldmann) Tim and Segolene are running. We need an election counting committee, which will count the ballots in early Dec. This will be an in-person activity. Caroline and Ken volunteered, we need one more person and eventually need to determine a date.

6. Caroline will check on the status of chapter Aug Zoom program.

7. Caroline reported that the EMG office lease has been extended. Some folks have looked at another location rented by our same landlord. It is on Sutton just north of Manchester. Seemed to meet many of our requirements, but no decision yet. We realize that EMG values the basement storage, which has already been voiced.

8. Outings and trails committee report. The Club is considering if it is safe yet to start up outings yet. The indication is that outings will still be delayed due COVID 19.

The Outings and Trails committee provided recommended comments on the Great Rivers Greenway proposal. Caroline sent them in on behalf of the group with the core message as follows:

“The existing GRG trail footprint is large and is just not appropriate for some areas. Thus, we recommend the following.

- 1. The trail section south of Interstate highway 44 that is along the east side of the Meramec River should not be constructed as it will not be possible to do this without extensive damage to the existing natural forested bottomland adjacent to the river, and*
- 2. The trail section that generally would be north of the Meramec River between the City of Eureka beginning just south of Interstate 44 at the Route 66 State Park and extending west to the MDC Pacific Palisades access ramp should not be built as this area is one of the few such natural scenic areas that are left in the St. Louis area and construction of the new trail section as envisioned is not possible without extensive damage and alteration of the existing natural area.”*

9. Thanks to Robert for his recent meeting regarding the Riverpointe project. Caroline shared a recommended position on the issue of St Louis City airport sale and privatization and included some background on Club policy and airport history. There does not seem to be momentum now for putting the privatization issue on the ballot. We can consider adopting this position next month.
10. Next month’s meeting will be Tues Sept 8.