

Nov 12, 2019

EMG Excom

Excom members Present: Ken, Glenn, John, Tim

Non excom members: Caroline

1. Minutes from Oct meeting approved
2. November meeting on the 21st., Caitlin and John will make announcement about 2020 calendars and help sell them. We also need someone to do this at Dec 7 holiday party.
3. Tim, John, and Caroline will count ballots on first mutually available day after ballots due. Sierra Scape is in the mail.
4. Patrick Justice is scheduled speaker for January. March is joint meeting with Audubon. For Feb Tim suggested a presentation about the Sunrise movement and GND. Tim will check with Gretchen on this, as she has contact info. Tim attended event this weekend with this group. We agreed it would be interesting topic. We agreed to brainstorm ideas for future speakers – someone from Forest Park about new changes planned is perhaps an option.
5. Ken reported on Audubon award that EMG received for our work on County Parks. Ken and Caroline attended Audubon event at the end of October. Ken will bring award to Nov general meeting. Leah and Caitlin are planning to attend the Nov 15 event at Grand Glaize library.
6. John and Glenn reported on successful trails event. Over the 9 days about 50 people participated, maintained 20 miles of trails in backcountry. Also did some retread work on shorter trail segment. There was a tornado warning during which power was lost and that delayed some work the next day. Many folks were also able to participate in OTC trail completion event. Unfortunately, the septic system has failed at Current River state park. Repairs may take a while and next year we may not be able to hold trail building event there.
7. Conservation issues: Caroline will check again with Outings committee to see if they have any response to Trails committee resolution on keeping bicycles out of Emmenegger Park.

Caroline emailed the excom a few weeks ago about two new conservations which have arisen since our last meeting. One issue is in O Fallon MO. Based on our exchange we have sent alerts to members in O Fallon about housing development in which developer wants to grossly violate tree replacement. We were initially contacted by O Fallon Sierra Club member. There appear to be many valid reasons to oppose this project. And this is another case in which the city's Planning and Zoning committee has not approved the project, but developer is seeking a variance. Nov 13 is targeted meeting of Board of Adjustment considering variance.

The second issue is in Franklin County where a new zoning proposal would open up a large part of the county to development, including CAFOs. There is rising opposition to this. We sent alert out to our members in Franklin county also. Nov 14 is next county meeting related to this proposal. We oppose CAFOs, especially in MO now that the state legislature has severely limited what local communities can do to regulate them once they are zoned in. A third important local conservation issue brewing is the ongoing controversy over Maryland Hts development in floodplain behind Howards Bend levee. EMG took position opposing this several years ago. Now the developers are asking for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding. We alerted members, asking them to attend Nov 21 meeting in opposition. TIF funding takes potential funds from the whole county and is an indication of weakness of the project.

8. Caroline suggested that the excom could consider improving the bird collision avoidance features on the office windows. We have decals, but don't always work. We could research what works and offer to pay for improvements. Also, there is still the issue of shade or curtain to improve evening presentations. We would need to designate one or more folks to follow through on this.

9. Glenn asked about making a \$200. donation to 365 Earth day. We started a discussion about this and other possible donations at our Oct meeting but did not take a vote. John F moved. Glenn seconded that we donate \$200 to 365 Earth Day. Vote in favor was unanimous. Glenn will write short paragraph about our appreciation, reason for donation, etc. Caroline will ask Gretchen about facilitating this when we have cover letter.

10. Next meeting Dec 10