

Nov 9 2021. EMG Excom draft minutes

Excom members on call: Ken, John, Caitin, Diana, Robert

Non-excom members present: Stephanie Todd, Tim Pekarek, Caroline Pufalt

1. Approved October minutes
2. Robert reported on EMG budget. No unusual expenses since last meeting. John said he has recently spoken to Jim Young, and he is willing to do lemonade sales next year providing the Covid situation continues to improve.
3. Sierra Scape is at the printer. This will be a full color issue. The FSC certified paper we use was slightly more expensive due to supply issue. Thanks to Caitlin and team. The newsletter team will be getting together in January to plan for spring issue and some new approaches.
November E- Newsletter content is needed. We will include a reminder for members to check their paper newsletter and cast a ballot for Excom.
4. We will count the ballots on Tues Dec 7 at EMG office, Election counting team will be Diana, John F. and Caroline. Others are welcome to attend. Caroline will get notice on EMG website.
5.
 - a. Caroline will share a copy of our email to Webster Groves Douglass Hill Development with Excom. We did not take a position on the development, but we did outline 3 concerns: flooding issues, lack of vegetation along stream, poor use of TIF option. To date we have received 3 responses, all were positive regarding the information we shared.
 - b. We discussed issues raised in email thread with Daniel Romano about the use of pesticides and herbicides in St Louis City parks. We have been undecided about whether to get directly involved in this. We agree use of pesticides and herbicides in parks should be a concern related to the health of park visitors and potential damage to a natural ecosystem. Daniel's group advocates No Spray but has conceded that use of herbicides to control invasive species may be necessary. Diane said she recently talked to person who has worked in Forest Park and who has professional knowledge about horticulture and chemical use. As far as she knows chemicals are rarely used in the park. Stephanie agreed to contact Daniel and see if she can determine more about this issue and how we might be involved. We also agreed that as background, understanding how chemicals are used in County Parks could be helpful. The City though may have fewer resources than the county.
 - c. Caroline reported about potential spring 2022 ballot issue regarding a lease of building and land in Queeny Park. The lease would be for a Forest School. Caroline will try to find out more details on the length of the lease etc. Due to a ballot measure which we helped pass, an issue like this will need to go before the voters. Most of us had

positive impressions of the Forest School concept which helps give younger children an outdoor education. Robert thought St Louis weather might not be amenable to year-round outside education. No action is needed now. Tom Ott from County Parks reached out to us to share information.

d. MO chapter Excom will be held (virtually) this Saturday, 13th starting at 10 am and over before 1:00. Members are invited to join too. Caitlin will share virtual link. Caroline will check with Tim Ewell to see if he is still interested in being a member representing EMG on the chapter MO conservation committee.

6. Democracy – thanks to the quick feedback on request to sign on to letter regarding public input process regarding St Louis Board of Aldermen and redistricting. We had an Excom majority and other EMG committee chairs supporting signing on. We noted that the BOA redistricting process has been in the news, with maps changing and concerns about equity and population balance.

Legislative – the chapter legislative committee will have its first call regarding 2022 legislative session on Dec 10.

7. John reported that EMG trail building outing will be Dec 5-6 in Hawn State Park. This will be an official SC outing.

8. Tim Pekarek reported on the Inspiring Connections Outdoors work he and other have done in EMG area. Tim has joined Club Zoom calls on ICO issues. He thinks that more support for the program will be forthcoming. COVID has restricted any events, but Tim says the St Louis area volunteers are still in touch and wanting to be involved. ICO outings will probably not be active again until March. We appreciate Tim's work and his persistence.

9. Next EMG Excom meeting Dec 14.