

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes

April 29, 2021 via Zoom

ExCom: Julie Arrington (Chair), Mike Neeley-Brown, Karl McCreary (Vice-Chair), Dave Eckert (Program Chair), Jules Moritz (Outings Chair), Melanie Feder (Membership Chair), Mary Beth Downes

Present: Leslie Hogan (Secretary), Robert White (Treasurer)

I. Welcome and announcements

II. Approval of minutes

Mike made the **motion** that MPG accept the minutes for the final meeting of the 2020 MPG ExCom and the first meeting of the 2021 MPG ExCom. Julie made the second. The motion unanimously passed on January 27th.

III. Email votes on MOTIONS:

- A. Dave moved to have a Nature Notes (by Doris deLespanasse) series in our media. Jules made the second. Unanimously passed on 2/3/21.
- B. Melanie moved to publish favorite hike stories in the Peak View, etc. Dave seconded. Passed unanimously on 3/8/21.
- C. Melanie moved to approve Leslie's email in support of building a trail at Thompson's Mill. Dave made the second. The motion passed unanimously on 4/7/21.

IV. Treasurer's long-anticipated report (Robert)

- A. Robert explained the few new entries in the treasurer's report from the new year. Dave made the **MOTION** to accept the report and Karl made the second. The motion carried.
- B. Robert commented on the effects of the proposed National structural reassessment, one of the purposes of which was to eliminate Group treasurers. It became obvious over the week of active and well-attended discussion that this plan was not workable/acceptable. Julie asked permission from ExCom to sign on to a leaders' letter to National addressing the discontent. **MOTION:** David made a motion that MPG allow Julie to sign on to the leaders' letter that objects to restructuring in general. Jules made the second. The vote carried.

V. Outings (Jules)

Jules reported briefly on a meeting with National about opening up outings. The meeting provided limited details, and no decisions about opening up have been made.

MPG discussed the possibility of opening up outings when National gives permission. Looking forward, Jules noted that many of our leaders' first aid and leadership certifications have expired. Jules does have names of people ready to take training once we can gather again..

VI. Peak View, Facebook and webpage

- A. Karl agreed to write two more articles "From the back of the cabinet....files in the Karlverse," to go along with his first article posted on MPG's media pages gleaned from archived information about the formation of MPG in the early 70's
- B. Julie noted that MPG is getting positive comments from PV and Facebook articles and webpage postings (such as articles on favorite hikes, wildflower walks and writings from the archives of

MPG's formative years).

VII. Conservation projects (Dave)

- A. There was no feedback from Corvallis schools or the Green Schools Foundation when they received copies of the slide shows on our arboreta.

B. Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project

- a. Webinar - May 26th - To register for the free webinar about the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at the Bald Hill Natural Area, go to the link provided by Corvallis-Benton County Library : <https://bit.ly/giffordunawicreek>
- b. November Plantings We will be planting more shrubs, graminoids and perennials, all native, over about five acres. MPG has historically contributed to the planting. About \$5,000 will be spent on plants this year. David recommends MPG provide \$500 toward those plantings.

MOTION - The MPG ExCom approves the MPG funds \$500 or 10% of the planting costs at the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site at the Bald Hill Natural Area for native plants to be installed in November 2021 Dave Eckert made the motion. Mike made the second. The motion carried.

C. South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor -

- a. The MPG (Julie representing) was invited by an organizing committee to a Zoom meeting and a later field trip regarding a proposed South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor that would link the north and south ends of South Corvallis, as well as the east and west sides of 99W.
- b. Chairs or directors of seven other non-profits/agencies were invited and participated. There was united enthusiasm for supporting the project.
- c. The project involves a plan for acquiring easements, right-of-ways and titles to properties along the Mill Race to enable the creation of such a corridor through South Corvallis. The value of such a corridor involves social equity issues, community connectivity, traffic and flooding safety and environmental regeneration.
- d. A meeting was also held with City staff (director levels).
- e. A May 11 meeting has been scheduled with ODOT staff and consultants as the corridor crosses ODOT-owned 99W.
- f. Dave requests the ExCom either:
- i. Hold a separate virtual meeting to view a PowerPoint presentation to better understand the project, or
 - ii. Participate in a masked, physically-distanced field trip along the Mill Race to get an on-the-ground understanding of the project, or
 - iii. Reject providing endorsement of this project without further investigation, or
 - iv. Pass the following endorsement motion without further investigation
 - v. **MOTION - The MPG ExCom endorses the development of a South Corvallis Greenway and Pedestrian Corridor along the Mill Race**
 - to promote social equity and access for diverse economic and ethnic populations
 - improved connectivity from the east and west side as well as the north and south sides of South Corvallis, and
 - improve pedestrian safety in a highly risky traffic environment, and
 - reduce the impact of flooding in this high-risk flooding area, and
 - improve the environmental quality of the surface water and surrounding riparian zone.

Dave Eckert made the motion. Jules made the second. Discussions resulted

in the decision to see the site on a tour before making the vote, and so David rescinds the motion for later discussion. Jules agrees to rescind.

D. Jaguar Elementary School Native Arboretum Tree Removal for school expansion -

- a. The School District just approved a plan to expand the Jaquar (formerly Jefferson) Elementary School. The plan requires a new stormwater mitigation facility and has it placed where three Oregon White Oaks were planted as part of a School District approved plan.
- b. The MPG funded and planted those trees, as well as nurtured them since 2015.
- c. Dave asks the MPG ExCom if they wish to dig up and replant the trees in the fall or allow them to be destroyed by the School District.
- d. Julie asked Dave to ask for next steps. Jules also proposed that the schools consider helping move the trees once there is machinery on-site for the storm water project that could first be used to dig and move the trees for transplanting. Dave will make those connections and find more answers to possible alternatives.

E. Lincoln City Audubon Society's campaign (Julie)

Lincoln City Audubon is leading a campaign to designate Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout as Marine Conservation Areas. Such a designation would increase protections for rocky shores, including headlands, tide pools, reefs, underwater kelp forests and offshore rocks and islands. We wrote a letter in support. Their proposal was turned down but they will try again with improvements to their proposal.

VIII. Programs (Dave)

Past 2 Spring Lecture Series webinars - The first two webinars for the Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Spring Lecture Series were successful, averaging over 100 attendees per show. The Corvallis-Benton County Library did an excellent job hosting the webinars.

- a. The recording for the "*Gift for the Jackson-Frazier Wetland*" (from March 24) is completed and closed-captions and can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQtJNAKm28A>. Phil Hays poured his heart into the presentation and presented the hidden history behind the protection and regeneration of this major Willamette Valley wetland. Phil was literally the only person who could have produced this presentation.
- b. The "*Gift for Marys Peak*" (April 21) was recorded and a closed captioned link will be available by the end of May on the Corvallis Library website. Greg Archuleta, Kalapuya member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, was the first presenter and talked about themes that the Confederated Tribes would like to be interpreted about Kalapuya culture on Marys Peak for the general public. Barry Wulff of the MPG talked about the formation of the Marys Peak Alliance as a spin-off from the MPG, how it improved guided interpretation for students and adults on Marys Peak as well as other activities to inspire public appreciation of Marys Peak and how it built partnerships with Marys Peak property owners. Brian Hoeh, interpretation Specialist for the Siuslaw National Forest, spoke to the U.S. Forest Service commitment to improving interpretive programs on Marys Peak. The program closed with presentations by Ann and Stephen Frenkel, daughter and son of Liz and Bob Frenkel.

Final Spring Lecture Series webinar - *A Gift for the Bald Hill Natural Area* will be presented on Wednesday, May 26 from noon to 1:00 pm. Jude Geist, City of Corvallis Parks and Natural Areas Manager, will tell the history, current status and future goals of the Bald Hill Natural Area. Dave Eckert will tell the history, current status and future

goals of the Dunawi Creek Regeneration Site within the Natural Area and report on the gift from the Frenkel Trust for this land. Ann and Stephen Frenkel will close with comments regarding their hopes for the three legacy gifts of their parents and how they would like them remembered. To register for the free webinar, go to the link provided by Corvallis-Benton County Library : <https://bit.ly/giftfordunawicreek>

Natural Areas Celebration Week Julie provided information on MPG program submissions for the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's Natural Areas Celebration Week (NACW). By partnering with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, the Coalition can host the Zoom presentation which will be recorded. The Coalition, as a partner, will also provide promotion of the programs. The NACW usually includes hikes and outdoor presentations.

Dave recommends May 3 and May 7th from noon to 1 pm for showing the power point programs as follows:

A Native Arboretum for the Crescent Valley High School Monday May 3rd noon - 1:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83043151239?pwd=cng3NitYSnRoU1BEbTV4QWNwaysyUT09>

- c. A Native Arboretum for the Cheldelin Middle School

Friday May 7, 2021 Noon-1:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82192696666?pwd=WTB3Qy8zMzRuTkJ6Q2U1ZjZSWFZIUT09>

- d. **MOTION - The MPG ExCom approves the MPG to partner with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to sponsor and produce two separate Zoom webinars about the Crescent Valley High School and Cheldelin Middle School Native Arboretum to be held on May 3 and May 7 respectively. The Coalition will host and record the webinar. Dave Eckert of the MPG will narrate the programs. There are no costs involved in this program. Dave Eckert made the motion. Julie made the second. The motion carried.**

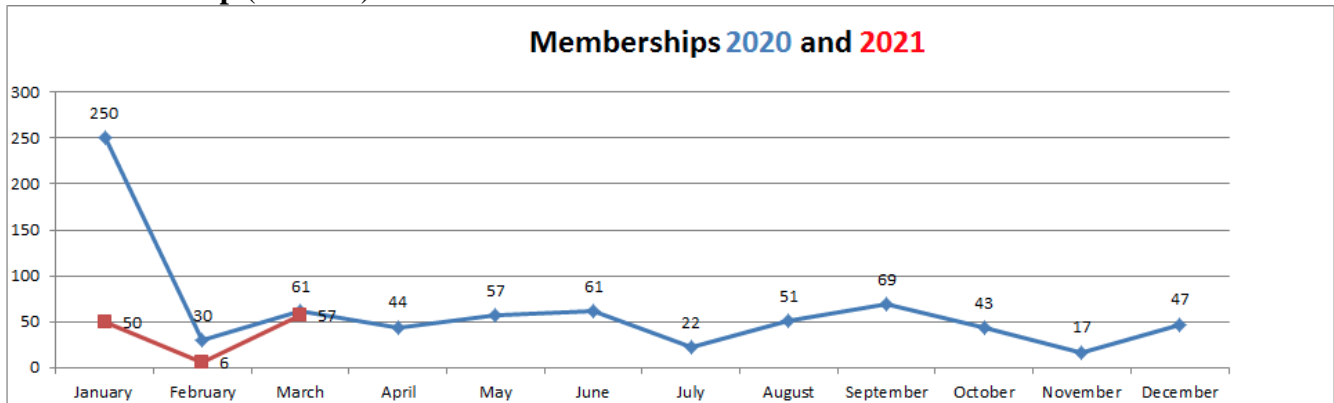
5th Annual Champinefu Lecture Series -

1. The proposal is to host webinars again this fall, due to the strong likelihood the pandemic issues will continue.
2. Dave talked with David Harrelson, Kalapuya member and Cultural Resources Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR), regarding webinar themes. He decided to expand upon the talk that Greg Archuleta gave for "A Gift for Marys Peak" - themes that CTGR would like to present to the public regarding Marys Peak.
3. There will be two presenters at each presentation:
 - a. An OSU Faculty Member who will present the subject from an academic perspective.
 - b. A representative from the CTGR to present the theme from a cultural perspective.
4. There will be three separate themes:
 - a. The Trees of Marys Peak - OSU= Ed Jensen - Emeritus Professor of Forestry, Author of Trees to Know in Oregon. CTGR= Greg Archuleta - Kalapuya Cultural Policy Analyst
 - b. Oregon's Water Future - OSU TBD CTGR - TBD
 - c. Oregon Fire Practices - OSU - TBD CTGR - David Harrelson, Kalapuya Cultural Resources Manager.
5. Hosting - If approved by Motion, Dave will ask the Corvallis-Benton County Library to host the programs. If they cannot do so, David Harrelson will ask the Oregon Historical

Society to host the webinar. In either case, the MPG would be a cosponsor with the CTGR and the host, as well as the Spring Creek Project.

6. **MOTION** - The MPG ExCom approves the MPG to partner with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Spring Creek Project to develop three webinars that will be shown in the Fall, 2021. Dave Eckert made the motion. Mike made the second. The motion carried (with Julie's compliments on the programs).

IX. Membership (Melanie)



X. Excom position descriptions (Melanie)

- A. Melanie will put out a rough draft for job descriptions of ExCom positions and Excom support positions (secretary and treasurer) by the next meeting after sitting position-holders submit their job descriptions.
- B. Dave's job description response is as follows: "Most of what I do is networking and groundwork that few would want to do. Each new Program Chair needs to invent their own way of doing this job. When I step down, I will personally advise the person who takes over and they can take or leave the advice. Currently the Programming includes the following:
- The Liz and Bob Frenkel Hiking and Environment Spring Lecture Series* with the Corvallis Library and
 - The Champinefu Fall Lecture Series* with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Spring Creek Project at the Majestic Theatre.
 - Natural Areas Celebration Week* with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition
 - During pre-pandemic times, we sponsored *Urban Creek Tours* (since 2008) or some other tour of Natural Areas
 - During pandemic times, we sponsor webinars of Natural Areas
 - Earth Day Tours* - Since 2008, we sponsored tours of environmental elements of Corvallis
 - All other programs are ad hoc and need to be approved by the ExCom."

IX. Meeting of the 3 Groups and Network (Julie)

The chairs and some members from the three Oregon Groups (Many Rivers, Juniper and Marys Peak) and folks from the Illinois Valley Network met via Zoom in February to exchange ideas. This was the brainchild of Ryan Kounovsky, the Many River's Chair. We talked about the various activities each group takes on. We also listed places where we need help. Everyone mentioned needing to get more members involved and to involve folks who don't live near Eugene, Bend or Corvallis and to get younger persons involved. I can send Ryan's notes to anyone who is interested. I was very inspired by what the groups are doing and was proud of MPG.

X. Chapter report (Julie)

A. Update on Chapter ExCom

Progress is slow in reforming Oregon's Chapter. Three more people came forward to join the Chapter ExCom. Our committee met twice with Casey Mattoon from National's Chapter Support who was great at helping us focus on our priorities. Chapter has a very active conservation committee and a legislative committee but we are still getting up to speed on next steps for hiring staff.

Debra Higbee-Sudyka was appointed to be the Chapter representative on the Columbia River Crossing Project (bridge). I voted no.

B. Debra has an ordinance to force Corvallis restaurants to compost their scraps. MPG declined to support it because it would fine restaurants if found non-compliant. An article about the ordinance was placed in the Chapter newsletter. I had it removed because I didn't want anyone thinking that MPG supported it. The newsletter editor had been given the impression that MPG members supported it.

C. Casey had MPG discuss the Chapter committees to see where we need improvement. He requested that Groups do the same. Do we want to try to form committees? Do the ones we have need more help?

1. Outings. We have Jules and Ken
 2. Financial. No committee but we have Robert.
 3. Legislative. No committee
 4. Conservation. No committee
- After discussion, the consensus of MPG is that the issue with unfilled committees has been the problem of both looking for and finding qualified and interested people who want to actively step into these legislative and conservation committees.

D. The Chapter legislative committee has started working. Julie is on this committee. The committee's second Action Night is May 6th. It is supporting two bills in the Oregon legislature. HB 2062 sets energy efficiency standards for appliances. HB 2488 brings equity in land use planning.

X. Elections

A. Melanie, Dave, and Mike's terms are expiring this year.

B. Julie and Karl have offered to be on the nominating committee for 2021. Karl and Julie will find a third member for their committee.

XI. Any other business?

1. Marys Peak art piece donation for Corvallis-Benton County Library (Dave)

- a. In 2018, the Marys Peak Alliance sponsored the first ARTscend Marys Peak field trip and gallery show for local artists to create artwork for Marys Peak. Over 60 art pieces were produced and shown for 30 days at 8 galleries around downtown Corvallis.
- b. The most unique art piece in the show was "She Rose from the Sea" by Dale and Peggy Donovan. It is a 3 dimensional piece in mixed media of clay, wood, fossilized wood, obsidian, glass and copper. It portrays both the rise of Marys Peak from the ocean floor and the embedded spirit of the ancestral home of the Kalapuya.
- c. Dale and Peggy spent an afternoon with Kalapuya artist Don Day discussing and conceptualizing the piece. And the Kalapuya obsidian points embedded into the clay were produced by Don Day.
- d. The listed price is \$1,200. The Donovans will sell it for public display to a non-profit group for \$600.
- e. Dave spoke with the Corvallis Library Director about the possible donation of the piece to display in the Library. She expressed excitement about the possibility, expanding upon the

previous donation by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde of the Lamprey Bench. She said that the decision to accept artwork for display in the Library must now be approved by the Library Board and she will be happy to present it to them.



f.
side one



g.

side two

- h. MPG's purpose in buying and donating this artwork is in large part to keep Marys Peak itself in the consciousness of the Corvallis community.
 - i. Negotiations would determine final ownership of the three foot tall sculpture, the possibility of including plaques to acknowledge donors and to record the significance of the title and of the symbolic geologic and cultural significance of the work itself.
 - j. **MOTION** - The MPG ExCom approves that it will fund \$300 (50%) for the purchase cost of "She Rises from the Sea" by Dale and Peggy Donovan, contingent on the approval and agreement by the Corvallis-Benton County Library that they will place it in a public place in their Library System. The remaining funding will be raised by individuals or another organization. Final ownership needs to be determined.
Dave Eckert made the motion. Karl made the second. The motion carried.
2. MPG sent out a letter in support of the trail at Thompson's Mill which was acknowledged with thanks by the Ballards and the ranger at the mill, Tom Parsons.

XI. Next meeting. ExCom should expect a Doodle pole for a July meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:14 p.m.