

July 12 Ex Com Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Diana Oleskevich, Caroline Pufalt, Caitlin Zera, Ken Schechtman, Tim Elwell, Glenn May, Robert Roberson, Paul Stupperich, Charles Miller, Sarah Richmond, Ashton Kuehnel, Anne Eggebrecht, Stephanie Todd

June meeting minutes approved

Life Time Achievement Award

Suzanne Smith was nominated for the Sierra Club Life Time Achievement Award and it passed unanimously. Suzanne has been instrumental in the hiking and outings program and started a Friday hiking group that is still going strong. Also, she has been one our best outings and trails volunteers. Due to health issues, award needs to be awarded as quickly as possible.

Action: Caitlin will contact Natalie for a template and Anne will write a statement to be published in the newsletter and verbiage for the plaque.

Bob Gestel bequest – A committee was formed consisting of Paul Stupperich, George Behrens, and John Feldman to determine what should be done with the bequest and to fulfill the intent of Bob's wishes. It was proposed that Natalie Johnson should be a part of the committee since she is staff and knows the procedures that need be followed. The committee will recommend items to be funded but Ex-com has to approve the expenditures.

The money has not been received by the Chapter yet. The money was sent to National but National wants the check re-cut so it can be put under the correct tax designation.

Action: Ashton to confirm Natalie will participate on committee

Action: Natalie to determine the status of the money and communicate the status to Robert directly.

Financial Report from Robert Roberson

We had a deficit for June of \$942. Our only income was \$55 in outing fees. \$659 was spent for the printed newsletter that recently went out and \$338 was paid for some existing Lemonade expenses.

SierraScape and E-Newsletter Report from Caitlin Zera

The EMG eNewsletter is scheduled to go out next week. Please send articles and/or photos to Caitlin or Tim by Monday July 18. Fall issue submissions due August 22. The Fall Issue will include election. Need candidates selected and approved by newsletter deadline. Next Newsletter Committee Meeting is July 27 virtually. Reminders will be sent out via email. Let Caitlin know if you would like to attend.

Action: Need to form Committee to Select and Approve Candidates. An outside person, someone not on the board, is needed to be on the committee.

Planning for Lemonade in St. Charles – John Feldman

Jim Young and I have started to plan the Festival of the Little Hills lemonade stand effort which is August 19th, 20th, and 21st. We are selling lemonade, pretzels, and special nuts and will have two booths. **We will need about three times the volunteers we needed for Earth Day.** I will be sending out an email request to previous volunteers and request Ashton's help in getting a volunteer request to all our St. Charles members. These emails will go in the next couple of weeks. This lemonade effort will keep us busy through most of August.

Office Move – Update from Ashton

All equipment has been removed from the basement. No new office space yet. Everything is being put in a storage unit. Waiting for National to approve office space. Need volunteers to go through office suppliers, old memorabilia, etc. Moving days July 25 and 26, big stuff including tables will be moved July 27. Then office will be cleaned and inspected by landlord. Merchandise at front of office will be saved for later giveaways. Willing to donate a lot of office stuff like cubicles and chairs. Let Ashton know if you know anyone that can use the stuff.

Conservation Report from Caroline Pufalt with input from John Feldman

SILICA MINE: DNR has approved the permits required for the mine. The silica mine company, Nexgen, is suing St. Genevieve County over the health ordinance created to keep the silica mine from going through. There is a public meeting at Hawn State Park about plans for the park on Saturday, July 16th from 3 – 5 pm. The meeting should include some high-level parks people so it would be good for some interested people to attend to ask questions. Friends of Hawn is worried the county may lose the legal battle when it gets to the state courts and has asked if the Sierra Club could help.

Action: Aston will follow-up with contacting Henry Robinson, retiree from Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

Ozark Scenic Riverways: On June 20th eight of us joined the superintendent of the Ozark Scenic Riverways on a float trip on the Jacks Fork River. The intent of the float trip was to follow-up on his plans for the ONSR, especially the Roads and Trails Management Plan. You learn a lot more on a float trip than in a zoom meeting. We learned that he is trying to get control of some of the illegal activity and reduce some of the illegal horse trails along the ONSR. He seems to have a good focus to his manage plan. The bad news is that he intends to make about seven horse river crossings below Cedar Grove low water bridge legal crossings (although fewer than the existing illegal crossings). He intends to get rid of the crossings above Cedar Grove which is great. The second bad news is he intends to construct a public horse trailer parking and unloading area below Cedar Grove which will add horses to the trail corridor. There is already a private horse operation in the area. He also wants to get rid of the low water bridge and construct an overpass over the river.

Outings/Trails Committee Report from John Feldman

We have about half a dozen outings leaders actively leading hikes including about four new outings leaders.

TRAILS: On June 24th we had 21 volunteers from US Bank and nine volunteers from the Trails Committee doing trail maintenance at Castlewood State Park. The park manager was happy with the work and the US Bank volunteers want to come back and do it again.

HAWN NEW TRAIL: Hawn is putting in a new small gravel parking area adjacent to Hawn Park Road where we have flagged a new five-mile-long trail. It is now approved so we can start building it this fall or winter. This would be a multiyear effort to construct the trail and require a lot of vibrant volunteers.

Card for Dorothy Stade – John, her husband, passed away suddenly from an accident. Caroline will send a card from the Ex-Com.

Next meeting is August 9 virtually.