

Minutes June 14 Ex Com Meeting

In attendance: Diana O, Caroline Pufalt, Caitlin Zera, Ken, Glenn May, Michael Berg, John Feldmann, Tim Elwell, Natalie Johnson, Debi Pratt, Robert Roberson

In attendance for the first part of the meeting: Robert Roberson and others had to drop off as the meeting went on.

Financial Report from Robert Roberson

Discussion of Bob Gestel bequest - for trail building, state park improvement. We need to open up a separate bank account to handle these funds. Ken and Robert will work on that this week. We need to set up a separate meeting with outings leaders about how we can best use this gift. Link to information about bequest. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aC1ndhoKDzsjFCg3HCXUiO16q0k0sS2C/view>

Political Endorsements from Debi Pratt

EMG PolCom has presented EMG Ex Com with a slate of candidates to endorse. Voting and discussion commenced by grouping candidates together.

LaDonna Applebaum, Doug Clemens, LaKeySha Bosley, Peter Meredith, Donna Barringer, Sarah Unsicker, Joe Adams, Barbara Phifer, Jo Doll

All previously endorsed by Sierra Club. Good environmental voting records.

Diana moved to endorse these 9 candidates.

Glenn seconded

Motion passed, unanimous

Leslie Derrington, Colin Lovett, Melissa Greenstein, Kyle Kerns, Gregory Upchurch

These candidates were recommended by PolCom. They were new to us and completed our questionnaire with good results. 2 of 5 are not SC members.

Diana moved to endorse these 5 candidates.

Tim seconded

Motion passes, unanimous

Trish Gunby, Neil Smith, Gretchen Bangert, Michael Burton, Ian Mackey, Bridget Walsh Moore, Deb Lavender, Cindy Berne

These candidates were recommended by PolCom. They did not submit questionnaires specifically but all have good voting records and PolCom members were familiar with their championing of the environment.

Diana motions to endorse these 8 candidates.

Tim seconds

Motion passes, unanimous

Steve Butz

Steve Butz has a good environmental voting record. PolCom did vote to recommend him, but there was discussion over unfavorable statements he made about Cori Bush (an SC endorsed candidate) on a radio show. These comments were not related to the environment. Michael noted that supporting him based on his environmental voting record is important (we do not want to undermine that based on comments he made not related to the environment) however, Michael will be speaking with him about refraining from making unfavorable comments about another SC endorsed candidate like that in the future.

Diana motions to endorse Steve Butz

John seconds

Motions passes, (Voting members: Diana, John, Glenn, Caitlin, Ken)

Standards of Conducts Recommendation

MO Chapter requires all Ex Com members to sign standards of conduct annually.

Caitlin motions for EMG to approve that all EMG Ex Com members sign these standards of conduct annually.

John seconds

Motion carries, (Voting members: Glenn, Ken, Caitlin, John)

Caitlin will circulate the Standards of Conduct form for signing.

Meetup

Instead of deactivating our Meetup account, John and Jim Rhodes have discussed who can take over the management of the account. Ashton offered to take over from Jim Rhodes in the near-term. Jim will get back to Ashton when he returns from Maine.

SierraScape and E-Newsletter Report from Caitlin Zera

SierraScape finally hitting mailboxes in the next two weeks. We ran behind schedule getting this out but are ready to get ahead on the fall issue! Next Newsletter Committee meeting is July 27 virtually. Fall issue submissions will be due August 22. Reminders will be sent out via email. Next e-newsletter will come out the third week of June. Submissions are due June 20. Reminders will go out.

EMG Strategic Planning and Monthly Meetings from Ken

Discussion of back to in-person meetings for Ex Com - let's watch COVID case numbers. Consider requiring masks and vaccinations when we do go back. For next month's Ex Com, let's default to virtual but revisit closer to the date.

If we return to monthly meetings, the earliest we can is September. Our office lease ends in July so we do not yet know if the new office will have space to hold monthly meetings. May need to find other in-person venue.

John recommends that we divide the responsibility of planning monthly meetings. Ex Com would split into two committees and they would alternate planning the meeting (find speakers, arrange dinner beforehand, plan publicity, set up physical meeting space, run the meeting, break down afterwards). Last meeting Tim recommended we move to hosting these meetings quarterly instead of every month. Diana had some ideas for speakers - she, Caitlin and John will connect about these ideas.

Conservation Report from Caroline Pufalt

Silica Mine near Hawn State Park - EMG delegation could not make it to the public meeting in St. Gen due to a tornado that touched down in Ladue and accident on the highway. Marisa Fraizer was able to attend. She reported back that general local sentiment was anti-mine and that the company spent a very long time trying to present the project. Chapter sent in comments, individual comments sent by members as well. Natalie got word that on June 30th the decision from DNR will come down. Chapter preparing to put the word out about that.

I-64 Effort to create pedestrian infrastructure. Ashton got the word out to individuals, as a group we did not send comments.

30x30 Grant - Chapter applying for grant for urban city green space. We have an opportunity in STL to change a rule on how vacant lots are used. Currently it is stated that the first priority for vacant lots is commercial. STL city government changes - one of the aldermen who resigned was part of zoning. New opportunities now that aldermen have resigned. EMG would be responsible for working on the vacant land opportunity as it is in the STL City. Grant app info: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge/america-beautiful-challenge-2022-request-proposals>

Outings Report from John

Next Monday, John and a group of outings leaders will float with the ONSR Superintendent and talk about the management plan for the area.

Next Friday a group of US Bank volunteers will work with John at Castlewood on Trail-building and maintenance. John to take photos.

Next meeting is July 12 virtually.