

November 15, 2022 EMG Ex Com Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Diana Oleskevich, Caitlin Zera, Glenn May, Stephanie Todd, George Behrens, David Campbell, John Feldman, Ashton Kuehnel, Jim Rhodes, Kevin Grooms

Sept meeting minutes approved

Follow-up on Prior Action Items

All actions completed except we need to follow-up with Caroline to see if she talked to Henry about what the Sierra Club can do to help cities determine what should be done with the

Financial Report

The Treasurer Report ending Oct 31, 2022 is at the end of the minutes. No activity to report for October.

Caitlin has purchased an IPAD and will submit reimbursement.

Robert is stepping down as treasurer at the end of this month. Caitlin recommended a vote be held on treasurer when the new Ex-Com members are elected and everyone agreed. John Feldman made a motion to approve Jim Rhodes as the interim treasurer. Diana seconded. Vote passed unanimously. Jim Rhodes is the interim treasurer.

Bob Gestel bequest – John Feldman and George Behrens

The Bob Gestel bequest committee met with the LAD land managers during the trail work time at Current River State Park (CRSP). Laura Hendrickson, deputy director of parks was at CRSP for a memorial for a previous director and joined our meeting. We found out from LAD that their board is not interested in closing any section of the Brushy Creek trail and is interested in more recreation opportunities in the Pioneer Forest. So, we will need to increase our efforts at trail work and definitely need the Bob Gestel resources to help with the trails at Roger Pryor backcountry. Laura told us that CRSP lodge will not close for at least two years for rehab because their priority is on new lodging at Echo Bluff and CRSP.

George added that the Gestel bequest representatives are very enthusiastic about working on trails in parks. Laura was going to survey the Ozark Trails and see if help is needed on these trails.

Work has started on a new trail at Hawn State Park using the Bob Gestel bequest. Planning to hire people from AmeriCorps to help build the trails. George thinks National can pay-out the bequest funds directly to AmeriCorps instead of us requesting reimbursement. However, we need an estimate so funds are approved.

Outings Committee – John Feldman and David Campbell

The EMG outings committee continues to expand the number of Sierra Club hikes and the number of outings leaders actively participating in leading hikes.

Money from Outings – Money and sign-up sheets will be given to Jim Rhodes

There will be outings leader training on January 21st, 2023 at a conference room at Route 66 State Park.

The trails committee had a very successful trail work effort in Roger Pryor backcountry on November 1st through the 6th. We filled up Current River State Park lodge for the four days of trail work. I have sent some photos to Caitlin. We will be doing trail work at Castlewood State Park on Saturday, November 19th.

Matt Self, who has been recently leading the use of Meetup for EMG SC hikes, has agreed to take over management of Meetup from Jim Rhodes.

The next committee meeting will be held on November 30.

Estimate for 2023 Outings Budget, see below. Dave Campbell explained the requested items.

Item	Cost			
Outings Leader Workshop-Supplies	\$100.00			
Outings Leader Workshop-Food	\$100.00			
CPR/First Aid Training 15 people @ \$109/person	\$1,635.00			
Trail Maintenance-Food	\$200.00			
Current River State Park and Drey Land are not available in 2023 due to remodeling. Money for camping fees and/or Echo Bluff Condo.	\$600.00			
Meetup App Annual Cost	\$197.88			
Total Cost	\$2,832.88			

Approximately 5 people are interested in Wilderness First Aid. Cost is \$150/person for course.

Requirements for first aid training – All outings leaders are required to have basic first aid and CPR training. Wilderness first aid is required if help cannot get there within 4 hours, which is considered backcountry, and for overnight outings. We rarely have a need wilderness training. CPR is needed for water outings.

David is going to add wilderness training to the budget and set-up a procedure for granting someone to take the training. He also proposed there should be some kind of policy for reimbursement of first aid training.

New Office Space – Caitlin and Kevin

The Chapter moved into new office space in U. City which consists of is a very small office and a conference room that is available for meetings and if needed, additional desk space can be purchased. Currently the office is being used by Gretchen, Natalie and Michael. The rest of the staff is working remotely.

Ashton noted this is short term office space, as it does not meet all our needs. George has submitted concerns to Gretchen about the office space. However, there seems to be some misconceptions about the space that Kevin tried to clarify.

This office space is much cheaper than other available office space and the Chapter is getting fewer donations, specifically 501c4, donations have dropped. Also, there are several requirements and an office has to meet, one being disability accessibility. The old office wanted us to commit to a 6 year lease and there were many issues, for example bugs. Budgeting \$20,000 for yearly rent.

There is a need for storage space but it was noted that the KC group stores things at individual’s houses. Most people want an office that has meeting space and there are several options with this office. It was noted that libraries have free meeting rooms.

Grant money – will run out at the end of the year, but haven't gotten answer from Gretchen about how to access money or what it can be used for. Kevin thinks the money has to be used for training and a large portion has already been used.

Action: Kevin will follow-up with Gretchen to see about the grant money.

Conservation Report from Caroline Pufalt

1. The silica mine issue near Hawn State Park in Ste Genevieve County is still in flux. The county health department's opposition to the mine has been challenged. Friends of Hawn State Park did reach an agreement with the company – NexGen – to establish a fund for reclamation. Friends of Hawn was concerned that MO Dept Natural Resources law is so weak it could not enforce proper reclamation. This agreement at least tries to remedy that. Friends of Hawn SP still opposes the mine. EMG is a supporter of the Friends group. See more info at link below.

<https://suntimesnews.com/2022/10/10/friends-of-hawn-states-it-is-not-aligned-with-nexgen-silica/>

2. This past month Michael Berg testified at St Louis City Transportation committee and the city Board of Alderman meetings against the proposed Lighthouse Landing (marina) project planned in north St Louis City area near the confluence. This site and type of proposal has been in the works off and on for several years. We have opposed it in the past. I sent in written testimony, but thanks very much to Michael for twice providing verbal testimony.

Part of this project is for a retail and entertainment complex, with a connected marina on the MS river. The project would be on land "raised" out of the flood plain. That's not good, but the worst part is the location of the marina. It's a dangerous part of the river where the Corps cautions against navigation. The nearby Chain of Rocks channel which was constructed to provide safer waters. But this marina will sit directly on the MS river and will be geared to recreational boating. And of course they are asking for TIF relief- which means taxpayers pay for part of it. Several other groups and a few alderpersons opposed this too. Unfortunately, the project seems to be moving forward.

Meeting schedule for 2023 – One meeting every quarter instead of monthly. Looking for space to have meetings in-person. Work with Audubon for the March meeting.

Social Gathering – Would need a safety plan and would need it approved by Kevin. Diana proposed meeting in Alton at a brewery at the Illinois Sierra Club meeting.

Everyone is invited to Chapter Ex-Com meeting this Saturday.

SierraScape and E-Newsletter Report from Caitlin Zera

The EMG eNewsletter is scheduled to go out this week. Printed Sierra Scape is at the printer. People should receive them in the mail before Thanksgiving.

Next meeting will be December 13 virtually. Will send out follow-email

