

## **September 20, 2022 Ex Com Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Diana Oleskevich, Caroline Pufalt, Caitlin Zera, Ken Schechtman, Tim Elwell, Glenn May, Paul Stupperich, Stephanie Todd, Ed Schott, George Behrens, David Campbell, Ross Hunt, John Feldman, Louise Bullock

### **August meeting minutes approved**

#### **Financial Report**

We had a record for Lemonade in St. Charles, grossing about 17k and netted approximately 11k. Robert recommended we purchase a dedicated IPAD for Lemonade.

**Action:** Caitlin to look into purchasing an IPAD and verifying an IPAD will serve our purposes.

#### **Political Endorsement Request – Ross Hunt**

Ross requested the Sierra Club endorse Ron Odenthal for House District 106. Odenthal has filled out the Sierra Club questionnaire and scored a perfect score. Tim moved to endorse. Final vote was unanimous.

**Action:** Caitlin will add to our list of endorsements. Ross will notify Odenthal he can use our endorsement

#### **Bob Gestel bequest – George, John and Ed Schott from Missouri State Parks**

The Bob Gestel bequest is approximately \$100,000 and resides with the Sierra Club Foundation. The request was that the money be used for trails. We need to spend the money and then request reimbursement. Reimbursement takes approximately four weeks. The committee consisting of Paul Stupperich, George Behrens, and John Feldman recommends the top two priorities are a new trail at Hawn State Park and trail work at Roger Pryor Backcountry. See recommendations after the meeting minutes. A cost estimate has not been done for these two items. Ed Schott, a member of the committee and a good friend of Bob's, attended the meeting and spoke about the benefits of the Sierra Club helping with the trails.

Discussion on reimbursement time frame from National and amount of installments required so we don't have to cash-in our CDs early.

**Action:** Trails Committee to determine costs and schedule for recommended projects at Hawn Park and present to EMG Ex-Com at the October meeting.

#### **Lemonade – John Feldman**

We had a record year at Festival of the Little Hills according to Jim Young. Robert has the exact numbers but we grossed approximately 17k and netted about 11k. Credit effort using Square brought close to 5k. Note: Robert recommended EMG purchase a dedicated IPAD device instead of using John's personal IPAD. We had enough volunteers except Saturday afternoon when a couple of people cancelled at the last minute (covid) leaving us short. We almost ran out of lemon juice. The temperature was in the upper 80s and people were desperate to get lemonade. We also ran out of Gus's pretzels which was a big hit! Some people said they only come to the fair for those pretzels and we could not sell them on Sunday because Gus was having trouble getting workers for Sunday. Jim tried selling a nut mix he saw on the New York Times but we sold very little.

#### **Outings Committee – John Feldman**

There are about a half dozen people leading hikes right now. We are using Meetup for some of those hikes. Matt Self is a dynamo leading hikes!

Outings Chair – George would like to step-down as an Outings Chair and is recommending Dave Campbell start to transition as the third Chair. Dave has great experience. Vote was unanimous to appoint Dave as an Outings Chair.

Caroline thinks she is getting Outings money from PayPal and forwards these payments to Robert.

**Actions:** George will talk to Gretchen about using Grant money for Outings. Also, George or John will talk to Robert about where the EMG outings money is going.

#### **Trails Committee-John Feldman**

We are planning to do trail maintenance at Roger Pryor backcountry the first week of November. This will be the last time we stay at Current River State Park before the major rehab starting next year. Currently, about a dozen people plan on attending.

The new trail at Hawn State Park is almost through approvals. The archeology guy was down there a couple of weeks ago and okayed the route. The cultural guy is the last approval. After that the Park manager, Ben Bailey, is planning to put in a small gravel parking lot. Then we can start roughing in the trail. It will take several years to build this five mile trail with three backcountry campsites and one Boy Scout campsite without the help of paid help (Americorp).

We hope to help with maintenance and other tasks at Castlewood and Don Robinson State Parks this fall and winter. No details right now.

#### **SierraScope and E-Newsletter Report from Caitlin Zera**

The EMG eNewsletter is scheduled to go out next week. Articles and/or photos were due by September 19.

#### **Conservation Report from Caroline Pufalt**

Anyone concerned with Conservation should also work on elections.

Report on WebEx on flooding in Missouri. Effort to address impervious surfaces.

FEMA is buying out some houses in Webster Groves along Deer Creek. Sierra Club is going to try to influence what will be done with the land, such as a prairie or flood plain. U. City has been trying to get buy-outs from FEMA, so they may be able to use the same process as Webster Groves.

**Action:** Caroline to follow-up with Henry to see what we can do.

#### **Next meeting is October 11 virtually.**

Item for Agenda next month – Discuss monthly meeting format; virtual or in-person.

**Action:** Caroline to get space for a fall get together.

**Notes for Sierra Club East Missouri Group ExCom Meeting Tuesday 9/20/22  
regarding Bob Gestel Bequest**

**Committee members: Paul Stupperich, George Behrens, John Feldmann, Ed Schott**

1. The top two priorities are the new trail at Hawn (west part of park-"Spanish Land Grant Trail") and trail work at Roger Pryor Backcountry (Blair Creek Section).
2. We did not recommend a specific amount to spend on either project, as we don't yet know what costs will potentially be incurred.
3. Some options for new trail construction at Hawn include:
  - a. NCCC AmeriCorps crew (there is no cost to DNR for getting this crew of 8-12, but Ben needs to apply for the crew).
  - b. SCA AmeriCorps intern (these interns cost money: \$7,000 to \$12,628 per intern for a 12 week term). Housing makes a big difference on cost here. The low end is for positions where we provide housing.
  - c. St Louis AmeriCorps out of Souldard- \$90 per person per day. If a crew of 5 works through this option for a month (4 weeks), it would cost \$9,000
  - d. American Hiking Society- we could offer sponsorships to folks that volunteer to help with the trail. These people normally take volunteer vacations to do trail work. This sponsorship would defer that cost. Cost \$400/volunteer.

We did not agree on any one type of crew, and construction will likely be a combination of one or two of the above, along with Sierra Club and Friends of Hawn volunteers.
4. Type of construction at Hawn- we need to make sure remaining roots are cut out by hand if machine is used to cut shrubs and saplings along trail path.
5. Use of power equipment for trail construction should be minimal, but we are ok with using mechanized equipment to clear vegetation. Tread work will be done by hand and a dozer or mini excavator will NOT be used.
6. Other potential projects: Using funds to perform ecological restoration in the area near the new Hawn trail. Funds could be used as a MOBCI (Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative) grant match. The best way to fund this type of program would be several thousand dollars over a several year period as these projects usually take several years. Perhaps one or two interpretive panels could be created for this, including info about Bob (we did not come to a definite yes or no on this topic).
7. The name of the trail: John suggested naming the Hawn trail after Bob. In discussion with Ben and others in State Parks it sounds like they prefer to keep the name "Spanish Land Grant Trail" because of historic significance. The option of naming the shelter after Bob and using funds to run electric to the shelter came up. I think naming the shelter after Bob would work, but using funds to run electric would not be in line with what he intended in his bequest.