

EMG Excom draft Feb 9, 2021

Excom members present: Ken, Caitlin, John, Diana, Robert, Tim

Non-excom members: Caroline Pufalt, Debi Pratt, Jim Rhodes

1. Approved minutes from January meeting
2. Discussed treasurer's report. We are incurring monthly deficits mainly due to our payments to chapter. We need to get Robert's name on our group checking account. Ken's name is the only volunteer on the account. He and Robert will work out a time to go to the bank.
3. Debi led a discussion of the 4 local candidates recommended by the group political committee in March primary elections in St Louis City and in a Maryland Hts Council election. Those candidates are: James Page (ward 5), Daniel Guenther (ward 9), Megan E Green (ward 15) and Jamie Giley (MH City Council). St Louis city has new election process with a combined primary and 2 highest vote getters advancing Tim moved and Diana seconded a motion to endorse all 4 of these candidates. Approval was unanimous.

Diana asked if there was consideration of candidates for 17th ward. Debi said that the committee did consider that district but could not decide which was the better candidate. More than one was potentially endorsable. Decision was to consider endorsement after the primary.

4. Caitlin said the Sierra Scape is on schedule for April. She and Tim are working on the February e newsletter. They already have some ideas, but please send more by next Monday. Tim reminded us that photos help. Last e newsletter did result in a new trail volunteer. We agreed it was a good idea to periodically include a call for volunteers in the e newsletter.

Earth Day this year will be virtual. Caitlin is in touch with the planners to learn more about how we could be involved. A national Fresh Water Summit will be based in St Louis, and that will be a focus. We have already made some suggestions for panel members for that event.

5. Legislative committee report. The chapter legislative committee will have its monthly call this Friday at 2:00pm. Then at 3:00pm there will be a virtual in-district meeting with Senator Williams. Contact Michael if you would like to join either of these events. Caroline and Tim have been participating in the chapter's strategy sessions. One point raised is that two other groups in the chapter, THB and Osage, have group legislative/democracy committees. Recommendation that EMG consider this. Tim and Caroline will get more information on how those group committees operate.

6. Jim and John reported on the Outings and the Trails committee. Unfortunately the Club will not be sponsoring outings again for a while. Some outings leaders need to get their training updated. Friends of Hawn and Ozark Trail Association in Feb and March, but neither are Sierra Club sponsored.

Long time outings leader, Bob Gestel, died recently at age 91. The outings and trails committees hope to sponsor a bench and a plaque and tree in Bob's memory. Minimum would be \$600 and about double that to truly secure the bench. Paul Stupperich, who worked with Bob a lot over the years, has already started a collection. We agreed to put notice in e-newsletter to request dedicated donations for Bob's memorial. John moved and Ken seconded a motion that EMG donate \$200 toward the memorial for Bob. The motion passed unanimously. There will be space in April SierraScape for article regarding Bob.

Robert reported that he has already received some donations on behalf of Doug Mehlville who died earlier. Doug was also a long-time outings volunteer. We could consider a memorial also for Doug. We do have bench at the office, recycled plastic that Glenn got based on his work. We could look into whether that would be suitable.

7. We discussed the recent invitation to join efforts to introduce a bill to St Louis City Board of Alderpersons to ban use of certain pesticides in city parks. Caroline will try find out more background especially on 2 points. One issue as to whether what type of legislation actually passed in

NY city. The group is basing their proposed legislation on a NYC example. Another issue is what level of interest is there already about this pesticide risk within city leaders and others interested in this health issue. The city has a lot of issues on its plate. The pesticide issue can be viewed as an equity issue, but, for example. what background has been developed with the Black community on this.

8. Next meeting March 9.