

Jan 12, 2021 EMG Executive committee
(Draft minutes)

Excom members present on virtual meeting were: Ken Schechtman, Caitin Zera, Tim Elwell, Glenn May, John Feldman, Robert Robertson, Diana

Others present: Caroline Pufalt, Jim Rhodes, Stephanie Todd

1. We approved minutes from Dec 2020 meeting
2. We elected the following officers for January 2021 through December 2021

Tim moved, Caitlin seconded the nomination of Ken for chair. Passed unanimously.

Tim moved, Ken seconded the nomination of Caitlin for vice chair. Passed unanimously.

John moved, Glenn seconded the nomination of Robert as treasurer, passed unanimously.

John moved, Diana seconded the nomination of Caroline as Secretary, passed unanimously.

Ken moved, John seconded the nomination of Jim Rhodes and Louise Bullock as co-outings chairs, passed unanimously.

Ken moved, John seconded the nomination of Tim as Chapter Excom delegate. Passed unanimously. It's suggested that we have an alternate delegate also, no volunteers for this so we delayed this choice.

John moved, Tim seconded the nomination of Caroline as Conservation chair, passed unanimously.

Caitlin and Tim agreed to continue to work on our group paper newsletter and our monthly e-newsletter. Third Monday of the month is deadline for e-newsletter.

Tim agreed to be merchandise point person.

3. Robert provided a treasurer's report. Minimal expenses this month. We did get \$170. donation from 3 members in memory of Doug Mehville. Robert sent thank you cards. John suggested that Osage group has a group Pay Pal account on their website which seems to help them raise \$. Something we could consider?

4. Caitlin gave a brief update on Earth Day. This year it will be virtual and "events" will be distributed throughout the year. We don't know that

schedule yet. It would be good if we had some interactive based ideas to build on. Louise Bullock has expressed interest in helping.

5. Jim reported on recent outings report from National level Sierra Club, which he also shared with Excom via email. Currently there is moratorium on official outings until March 1 and the expectation is that will be extended. The report includes information on outings leadership training, which the club will provide in virtual format also. It's important that we keep up to date on this, generally outings leadership certification needs to be renewed every 4 years. We discussed issues involved in keeping outings as Covid safe as possible. We need to think of possible exposure during transportation and before and after socializing, not just during the actual hike, canoe trip, etc. Jim recommended that we all look at the documents he shared in more detail.

John reported that the trails group has not had any official outings, but some individuals have been working with the Friends of Hawn State Park group on trail maintenance on their own.

Caroline earlier sent out a reminder to Excom members and others to complete the recent Great Rivers Greenway survey. We will not comment here as a group but encourage others to do so as individuals.

6. EMG Political committee report. Ken reported that the committee recently met (virtually) and discussed the St Louis City mayor's race. There are several potential candidates. Often, we do not get involved in such races during the primary but that is not a rule, just a preference. The committee may come to us with a recommendation later.

7. Caroline reported that the chapter legislative committee is up and running. Despite some state level loses we still have allies in the state legislature who will work hard on our priorities. There are some very bad bills to oppose and a few good ones to support. EMG member Erica Hoffman is the volunteer chair, Michael Berg is staff contact. We will not have in person lobby day this year, but we will do some virtual in district meetings. Unfortunately, there are is no virtual access to testify in the Capitol. We and several other groups will try to push to change this.

8. Caroline provided Conservation committee report. She sent email earlier summarizing the steps EMG took to oppose the Riverpointe project, across from Bangert Island Park in St Charles. Several events and deadlines

came together since our last meeting. We signed on to comments submitted to the Corps by Great Rivers Environmental Law Center regarding the 404 (Clean Water Act) permit request. We hope some points made may improve the project. Frankly we are unlikely to stop this project completely, but we are at least building controversy and opposition to their plans for continued expansion. There are already plans for a phase 3 Riverpointe.

EMG's conservation efforts have been focused a lot on bad development in floodplains, river areas and parks. We have also traditionally responded to questionable municipal level development, such as recently in Kirkwood and now Webster Groves.

Caroline hopes in 2021 we can broaden our work to consider conservation priorities from an equity perspective. This might be helping with City of St Louis illegal dumping problems and ordinances involving full disclosure and protection for renters in areas of mold, lead etc. Jim suggested we try to form a more definitive group conservation committee. Also, Caroline noted that the MO Chapter will form a Conservation committee and will invite each group to suggest a member.

9. Misc. items. Stephanie mentioned she knows of several artists who would likely be willing to add their art efforts to a project we suggest. This sounded great and we thought of maybe notecards, art to add to our monthly e- newsletter etc. Caitlin reminded us that the Club's national Campfire Portal has resources to help with understanding the Club's process and opportunities.

Next EMG Excom will be Tues Feb 9 at 6:30 pm, virtual meeting again.