

July 14, 2020 EMG Excom, via Zoom

Excom members present were: Ken, John, Caitlin, Tim and Robert

Non excom members present: Caroline Pufalt (secretary), Xandi Barret and Michael Berg (Michael joined meeting for items 1-3)

1. We approved the June 2020 meeting minutes.
2. We discussed the issue of privatization of public services or public property. We have in the past taken position against privatization of St Louis Water utility, or sale of park land without public vote. Currently the issue of privatization of St Louis Airport is at issue. By this Friday we should know if the issue of airport privatization will be on the November ballot in city of St Louis.

We discussed whether EMG should take a general position on privatization and/or a position on airport privatization. All of us on the call are against privatization of St Louis airport, but we realize that airport ownership is not the usual environmental issue. Airports of course have significant pollution and community impacts and keeping public ownership is one way for citizens to have some control over that.

We agreed that developing a statement or position on privatization in general could be helpful to have on record for EMG. And separately if we develop a position on the airport issue itself, we could advise our city members on this issue. Caroline will work on this with Michaels input and with Henry Robertson's help. If we can develop a position by August meeting, that will give us enough time to engage with our members.

3. City Mayor Krewson has been highly criticized for recently publicly reading names and addresses of those who signed a petition or wrote comments about defunding the police. This was careless and potentially dangerous. The Mayor has not been very proactive in addressing police violence and BLM concerns. Should we develop a statement on this to share with our members? Ken will work on a draft statement. Consider getting this in next e-newsletter?
4. Political committee report. The group political committee agreed with all our endorsement recommendations from prior meeting and passed appropriate motions. So we can move forward with supporting candidates.

The chapter sent out letters to past donors to our Political Action Committee funds (PAC). We are doing followup calls. If you are interested in doing any type of phone banking for our candidates during this campaign season contact Michael via email or phone message.

Ashton led a phone campaign to our members to support Amendment 2 re Medicaid expansion. Thanks to those who participated.

5. Treasurer's report. Very little activity other than our planned spending to support chapter staff time. We still have net of 72,960 from combined accounts. Robert has been in contact with Gretchen who has sent us reports.
6. July 30 is a scheduled chapter Zoom call, topic will be public lands.
7. Chapter report: Gretchen has been hired as Chapter Executive Director. We all welcome her in her new role and thank her for her ongoing dedication.
8. Nominations committee: our current committee is Caitlin, Caroline and Ken. Current Excom members, Segolene and John have decided to run again. Statements are due July 31.
9. Outings report. Still no current sanctioned outings and we do not know when that may change. John reported that LAD Foundation did sponsor some work on Brushy Creek and Ozark Trail with several AmeriCorp volunteers. Louise Bullock also participated.
10. Conservation report: Caroline reported that the City of St Charles is planning another land purchase related to Riverpointe project. Next council meeting is the 21st. Caroline will send our alert to members in the city recommending they voice opposition.
11. Next EMG Executive committee meeting scheduled for Aug 11, Tues, 6:30 - our Excom meetings will be via Zoom until the Club approves in person meetings. Thanks much to Caitlin for her help with Zoom!