

June 13 2017 – draft minutes – EMG excom

present Ken Schechtman, John Feldman, Paul Ohlendorf, Henry Robertson, Caitlin Zera, Rob Polzin

guests: Caroline Pufalt, Jim Rhodes, Ross Hunt

1. approved minutes from last month
2. no formal treasurer's report
3. Ross, from political committee, asked us to consider endorsing Heather Navarro for 28th ward in St Louis. Henry moved, John seconded to endorse her.

All approved except for one abstention

4. Jim Rhodes suggested that we consider moving our monthly meetings from SC office to Ethical Society. Their meeting room holds over 100 people with lots of parking. Jim says space is available on 4th Thursday. Charge would be \$50 per night, Jim says he would pay half that.

Discussion, is that space too big? Does it give us any advantage to get Ethical Society members to attend our meetings? there is an overlap of interests. Ethical Society would probably advertise internally. Our numbers vary a lot. Jim is pretty sure there is a screen at Ethical Society we could use. There are some ways we could improve the office space with curtains, a new screen (perhaps one hanging from ceiling). Also there is advantage in having meetings in the office where visitors can see the office. We agreed that we continue to consider this but we need to talk to John Hickey first, should also visit Ethical Society space if consider this further. Link to Ethical Society space <http://ethicalstl.org/weddings-rentals/index.php>

5. Outings and trail committee report. Becky sent budget report and request.

Budget request was for money for food for trails event. They need \$500. reimbursement for food bought up front. Event will include modest charge for food so we will probably come out even or close to it. Budget request also for trails equipment \$230. John moved, Caitlin seconded that we approve budget request. Approved unanimously.

6. We need to start thinking about candidates for excom for 2018. we need nomination and elections committee. John is willing to be on nomination committee. Caroline will look at write-in list. Need to get notice on website

7. Potential staff sharing. We have discussed with John the possibility of sharing time of staff person (s) for EMG organizing and conservation. John wrote up proposal. But one issue still is a gatekeeper for staff time and issues.

Excom could plan ahead for projects/campaigns for which we could ask for staff time and then have a process also to use when last minute options come up.

plan for 4 hours a week use of staff time for 3 month time trial. John Feldman moved Rob seconded - approved unanimously. We understand that at this rate overall yearly cost would be \$13000. or about \$1090. a month.

Chapter has been helping us with some calls for monthly meeting, electronic email newsletter etc. Will this continue? Caroline will ask John what chapter plan is on this, realizing that at current staffing rate things are in flux. She will ask about phone calls for June 22 general meeting.

8. Groups need to appoint an equity chair. Caitlin volunteered to fill that post for EMG . John moved, Ken seconded that Caitlin be equity chair. passed unanimously.

9. We need a volunteer membership-engagement chair. Reviewed job description which is somewhat daunting for a volunteer. But we agreed we could benefit from implementing even part of it. We need to search for volunteer leader and then a committee. Caitlin will ask John H and Michael Berg if they have suggestions. We need to all be thinking of potential volunteers.

10. There are new merchandize options from SC. Caitlin has looked through new items and they look good. She will ask John if there are any special needs he sees from chapter standpoint. We agreed that the new T shirt design looks great.

11. Stash the Trash event in Sept. Caitlin will ask Megan with ICO if she is interested in helping shape this event and having her ICO kids participate.

12 A couple folks have asked how to post items to EMG FB page. Folks should send ideas to Gretchen or Michael with text and at least one picture. SC recommended FB protocol is to have at least 2 postings a day, one early morning and another later in day or early evening. We can have more some days but not a lot. We do not want our page to post so frequently that it becomes annoying to the average viewer.

13. Conservation issues: We are now part of an informal coalition against the ice rink at Creve Coeur Park and will develop a detailed statement in response to upcoming environmental assessment and talk to Post. Unfortunately St Louis County just approved bonds for this project.

Michael Berg spoke for us at the zoning hearing re the Lighthouse development on MS river just north of St Louis. This is a bad project but unfortunately the zoning change was made. At this point the only action item would be to ask the Mayor to veto it. This is unlikely though, we will assess asking members to contact mayor.

The chapter has a public lands initiative which includes work on ONSR trails plan when that is released, which is still delayed.

We need to keep an eye on issue of damming the Bourbeuse river in Franklin County. Don't know if this will develop.

Need to schedule information meeting on the Port-O-Lincoln project. .

14 next meeting July 11