

March 9, 2021 EMG Executive Committee (Excom) virtual meeting.

Excom members present: Ken Schechtman (chair), Caitlin Zera, Diana, John Feldmann., Tim Elwell, Robert Robertson (treasurer) and Glenn May.

Non excom members: Caroline Pufalt (secretary), Debbie Pratt, Jim Rhodes., Ashton Kushnel, Stephanie Todd

1. Approved minutes from Feb 2021
2. Debbie reported from EMG Political Committee – after the March primary the political committee presented us more suggestions for endorsements in 2 City ward races and another in St Charles. After interviews endorsement recommendations are: Ward 17- Tina Peale, Ward 12 – Bill Stephens, and Sunset Hills alderman – Andrew Tolch. All candidates were energetic and informed about environment and social justice issues. Tim moved and Diana seconded to endorse all three, motion passed.

Also, EMG pol com recommends we support Prop E to keep city earnings tax. We have supported that tax previously, it is essential for city parks and other issues. Robert moved and John seconded to endorse support of Prop E. the motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report from Robert Robertson. Bank balance has a slight increase, mostly due to donations through Pay-Pal account and donations for memorial to Bob Gestel in Hawn State Park.

Ken and Robert have been trying to get Robert's name on our First Community account and discovered some additional steps we need to take and record in our minutes to complete the process.

Treasurer, Robert Robertson made the following motion: Resolved that current First Community Credit Union authorized account signers, Robert Polzin and Pauline Holtzman be removed from the Sierra Club Eastern Missouri Group accounts 920.....-70, 920.....-41, and 920.....-42 and treasurer, Robert D. Robertson be added as an account authorized signer to the aforementioned accounts. Current authorized signer, Ken Schechtman

is to remain an authorized signer. The motion was seconded by John Feldmann, and was approved unanimously.

We also know that Bob Gestel included EMG's trail program in his will. We don't know the amount, and understand that it will be a while before we have any additional information. Robert has reported this to Gretchen, the club has resources which can help us understand how to properly handle a bequest if needed.

4. March 25, Thursday will be joint virtual meeting with Audubon, we need to advertise via e- newsletter, Meet Up, FB etc. Topic will be Missouri Owls.

5. Caitlin and Tim are working on e-newsletter and preparing for Sierra Scape. Need ideas and photos. Deadline for e-newsletter is the 15th, for the Sierra Scape deadline is March 22. Also, Earth Day 360 is planning some local events, including the distribution of "kits" with environmental ideas and information. Thanks to Tim and Caitlin for their super e-newsletter work!

6. Trail and outings work, no SC sponsored events but there is still work being done through other groups, such as Friends of Hawn. Memorial for Bob will be held at Hawn State park on April 24.

7. Ashton reported that the legislative committee is holding a Zoom meeting for all interested volunteers to share information and actions needed. Look for an invite-email, meeting will be Tues 6:30pm – 8, March 16. There are several very dangerous bills pending in MO legislature, for example, one limiting choices that cities and counties have over their own energy needs and another which would harm the make up of MDC's Conservation Commission.

8. Conservation report - Caroline reported on her correspondence with the No Spray Coalition in an email thread sent earlier. There is no draft legislation, but several samples from other cities. The NY City bill did not pass in 2020 as it was tabled due to pandemic. The coalition has done

some outreach within current alderpersons. Caroline will check on MCE support of this too.

Stephanie Todd shared information via email and during the meeting about the group, Lights Out Heartland which focuses on reducing light pollution especially during the May and September songbird migration season. The Sierra Club nationally has already supported the Dark Skies Initiative which is the umbrella group for this effort.

Diana moved and John F. seconded a motion that Sierra Club Eastern Missouri Group become a partner with Lights Out Heartland which is part of Dark Skies International. Motion passed unanimously. We agreed by acclamation to approve Stephanie as our representative to Lights Out Heartland (LOH). We will want to promote the LOH message on our own media and share information from other members in the group. St Louis Audubon is a partner as well. Thanks to Stephanie for bringing this opportunity to us.

9. Tim reported on the recent MO Chapter Excom Meeting. Kevin Grooms (from THB) will be new chair, Jennifer Johnson is vice chair. John Kissel was re-elected as Treasurer and Caitlin as Secretary. The chapter also briefly discussed its draft Strategic Plan which has been developed over the last few months.

10. Next meeting April 13

Notes by Caroline Pufalt, secretary