

EMG Excom minutes Oct 12, 2021

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

Non Excom members on call: Caroline, Stephanie, Ashton

1. Approved September minutes
2. Treasurer's report. Robert reported that current balance is relatively unchanged, but we do owe the chapter money for staff support and will have newsletter expenses coming up. Robert has contacted Club Foundation office about status of R. Gestell's trust account. We have \$ in our C3 account which we should try to use. C3 funds have funding restrictions. Cannot be spent on lobbying, political issues or club capacity building. Can be spent on educational and open events. Some may be applicable to our newsletter costs, but that depends on content. Robert will get more details from Gretchen. Also, Henry is our volunteer compliance officer.
3. Sierra Scape is close to completion, Caitlin is waiting on a couple items but has layout constructed. This issue will use updated branding styles and colors. Send October E-newsletter ideas to Tim.
4. Ashton reported on October 13 on-line Democracy event. The agenda will cover preparation for re-districting hearings and general discussion. Two in person hearings in St Louis, Oct 16 and Oct 20. But on-line comments will also be important. This redistricting will cover state office districts.
5. Conservation report. The International Dark Sky conference was held in Springfield. It was a great event. Stephanie had an important role in planning and her work on our local Stacy Park was featured in the program. Stacy Park has been designated as an urban Dark-Sky park. Caroline suggested EMG do an evening outing to Stacy Park.

Caroline reported that she received an update from local group (led by Daniel Romano) concerned about pesticide use in St Louis City Parks. The group did a Sunshine Request and received some very incomplete information. The City does use pesticides (and herbicides) on many parks. Uncertain of what next steps are. Caroline has asked for more feedback. This is a topic of concern, but St Louis City has many other issues which may make getting attention or resources to this difficult.

Caroline reported that the issue of housing/retail development in Webster Groves has had some substantive hearings at city zoning meeting. The project has been controversial but no consensus and until recently there was no solid plan from developer on water management and impacts on stream. Recent feedback from Jim Rhodes and John Hickey has been helpful. Also, there is local citizen's group which is primarily opposed. We agreed that Caroline will draft and send email alert to our members re this, suggesting that they tell City Council that Shady Creek protection

measures are insufficient. We will include sample comments. Ashton said Webster University has a sustainability survey which we might want to ask about and make certain Sierra Club members in the area respond to.

The MO Chapter is formalizing a state Conservation Committee and has asked that each group designate a member to serve on that committee and agree to report back to the group about committee activity. That person does not need to be an ExCom member. In total the chapter hopes to have 9-12 voting members on the committee so there will be opportunities for more participation. Tim said he would consider being our group representative. (thanks!) The next Chapter ExCom is Nov 13, if we could decide before then that would be helpful.

6. Legislative update. Michael is continuing periodic meetings (virtual) with legislators whom we support. Legislative committee calls and workplan will start in 2022. Early bills are filed in December.

7. John reported that first aid and CPR training has been completed. Congratulations to the outings committee for this work. The Trails committee is doing trail work in Roger Pryor Back Country Oct 19-24. John participated in Club Outings zoom call regarding Covid procedures for outings. We cannot turn folks away who are not vaccinated, but we will require a negative Covid test within 3 days prior to event.

8. Next meeting will be Nov 9.