

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes April 9, 2024

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan, Karl McCreary (signing out from the east coast at 6:55), Melanie Feder (arriving at 6:30)
Present : Robert White, Dave Eckert (attending from 6:15 to 6:50)

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:06

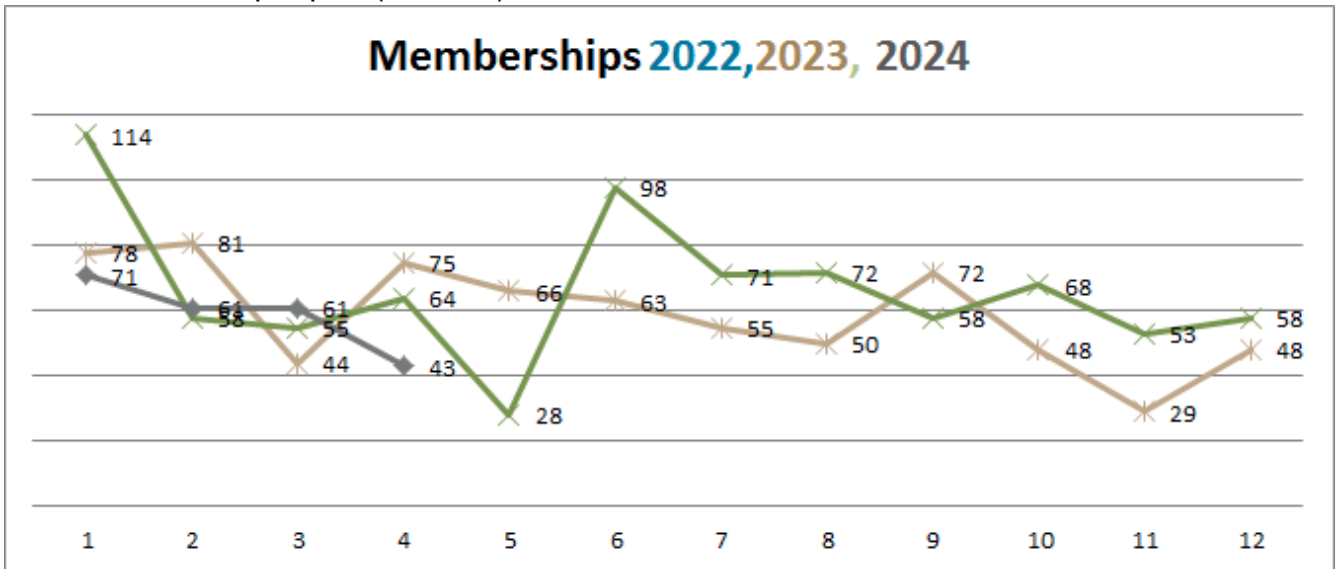
- I. Welcome and announcements

- II. Motions passed by email.
 - a. Leslie moved and Melanie made the second. MOTION: MPG will donate \$150 in support of the Sustainability Fair and Town Hall as we have done in years past. Passed. Email vote ended on 2/7/24.
 - b. Mike moved that Mary Beth Downes be reimbursed \$95 for the reservation of the Rotary Shelter at Willamette Park on June 22, 2024 for the Marys Peak Group Summer Solstice Potluck. In addition, Mike asks for up to \$50 to be approved for other expenses. We will use Green Girl to provide plates and cups. Mary Beth made the second. Passed. Email vote ended on 2/12/24.
 - c. Motion to sponsor a tour of the resurrected North Branch of the Dunawi Creek on Earth Day made by Melanie and seconded by Mike. Passed. Voting ended on 3/15/24.

- III. Treasurer's report (Robert)
 - a. Treasurer's report
Robert reported that the account was simple and straight-forward with a limited number and amount of expenditures.
Motion to approve made by Karl and Mary Beth made the second. Motion passed.
 - b. Do we want to pass these motions for 2024? We passed them for 2023.
 - i. **Motion:** The Chair can authorize up to \$250 per request of MPG funds without needing an ExCom vote with an annual limit of \$500. The chair will duly report the expenditure to the treasurer who will include it in the treasurer's report to be read at the subsequent ExCom meeting. Leslie made the motion and Mike made the second to extend this motion for 2024. The motion passed.
 - ii. **MOTION:** Once our treasury account falls to \$7,000, MPG will not undertake any expenditures beyond administrative costs. The motion will be good for the remainder of 2024 and may act as a guideline for future ExComs. Mike made the motion to discuss and Karl the second to pass or revise. After discussion, the decision was to retract the motion altogether.

iii.

IV. Membership report (Melanie)



V. Conservation Projects (Dave)

a. North Dunawi Creek Regeneration Project at Bald Hill Natural Area

The work at the site is now concentrated on the area surrounding and upstream of the new Dunawi Creek culvert under the Bald Hill Natural Area Multi-modal Path. We have been clearing out non-native Armenian Blackberry and English Hawthorn, building log structures in the headwater creek to increase hydrological complexity and preparing the site for further native planting in November.

b. Lamprey Creek Regeneration Project at Dr. MLK, Jr. Park

The City of Corvallis is planning an \$8 million project to provide a lot more pavement, a turf Commons and a fenced dog park, much of which is within the City's highly-protected wetlands and riparian zones of Lamprey Creek and its tributaries. The City has planned for no budgeting of funds for restoration of Lamprey Creek or the associated wetlands. We have started working, with the City's blessing, to remove invasive Reed Canary Grass from the wetland contiguous with Lamprey Creek and planting it with Soft Rush, camas and other wetland native species. We are taking a collaborative approach, rather than a reactive, confrontational approach, which is so often taken by many in instances such as this.

Melanie arrived at 6:30.

VI. Programs (Dave)

a. **Spring Frenkel Series**

The first webinar, *Marys Peak Transformed* was held on March 14. The attendance was as follows:

Registered:	240
Viewed Live:	131
Views Raw Recording later:	74
YouTube:	Will be available to the general public in June

The second webinar, *Transforming Marys Peak*, will be held on April 11th and will feature staff from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Marys River Watershed Council, all of whom are working on Marys Peak in 2024 and 2025 to transform the ecosystems.

The third webinar, *Imagining Marys Peak*, to be held on May 9 will focus on the prospective Marys Peak Interpretation Plan that is in process.

The MPG is partnering with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library,

b. 2024 Corvallis Earth Day Tour - Lost Creek Resurrection Tour

Monday, April 22: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

This 3-mile guided hike will illustrate how the landscape of a former camas/tarweed field at the western edge of the Missoula Floods zone was transformed in 1848 into the earliest colonial farm within Benton County, Oregon. That transformation included significant changes in the above and below-ground water flow, to meet the needs of the new agricultural practices. As a result, the headwaters of the North Branch of Dunawi (Kalapuya term for elderly wise woman) Creek disappeared. That former farmland is now part of the City-owned Bald Hill Natural Area on a 57-acre field east of the North Ridge of Bald Hill. In 2016, members of the Marys Peak Group and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition partnered with the City to resurrect this seasonal headwaters creek and return it to a hydrologically, ecologically and culturally-functioning waterway. This tour will reveal the landscape and cultural history of the creek, show how the creek was resurrected, and provide a vision of how the site may evolve over the next few decades.

Two miles of the hike are on a paved path and one mile is on off-trail, uneven field soil that may be wet or muddy. Elevation gain is minimal.

The Annual Corvallis Earth Day Tour was founded by the Marys Peak Group in 2008 with a different tour theme and route each year. The MPG is partnering this year with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. The MPG Outing Leader is Mary Beth Downes and the Tour Guide is Dave Eckert.

c. Fall Champinefu Series

The first Champinefu program, *Shati ti boom boom, Songs and Drumming of the Pacific Northwest Indigenous Cultures*, will be held live on October 9 at the new PRAX Center on OSU Campus. Drummers and Singers of the Confederated

Tribes of the Grand Ronde will express their culture. Free and open to the public. No pre-registration. First come, first seated. The MPG is partnering with the Spring Creek Project, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the OSU School of Culture and Language.

This individual program is costing upwards of \$5,000. The MPG will be asked to contribute to these funds.

The other two presentations will be webinars hosted by the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library in November and December. Dates, subjects and presenters have yet to be determined.

Dave left at 6:49.

VII. Outings (Mary Beth, Mike)

- a. Hikes: There are now six leaders in total and two potential leaders asking for training.

Karl left at 6:56.

- b. June 22 potluck at Willamette Park: Mary Beth has reserved a shelter at the park. Leslie will bring extra place settings, napkins, and extra picnic blankets for people who do not bring chairs. Robert will get utensils out of storage (and do an inventory) as well as bring MPG's extra tee shirts to offer for sale. Robert and Mary Beth will keep their eyes open for left-over name tags and sharpies and trash bags. All board members can bring tablecloths. MaryBeth will buy water and has a dozen place settings on reserve from Green Girl. We will ask people to bring personal place settings, a dish to share that has dietary labels, a preferred beverage and lawn chairs. Publicity should begin in May and be more prominent throughout June. Dave can bring his bullhorn.
 - i. As people arrive at the park, circulating board members can direct people to nametags and food tables to place their dishes. About 1:30 as people seat themselves, Leslie will extend a welcome, lay out the "agenda" and invite people to start eating. 2:45 Julie will make announcements: introductions of MPG officers and leaders, thanks to behind-the-scenes workers, info. about Peak View and volunteer opportunities, information about the Champinefu lectures (from Dave?), and a list of hikes that leaders can have ready for the end of June-September (presented by Mary Beth or Mike?). Robert will lead a hike around the park at 3:00. Leslie will be co-leader.
 - ii. Julie should have our banner and some tabling supplies.

- c. Land acknowledgements compiled by Leslie

- i. [Land acknowledgements](#)
[land acknowledgements.docx](#)

VIII. Peak View and Facebook (Julie)

- a. We continue to get requests for The Peak View almost weekly. At least one email mentioned hearing about The Peak View through Melanie's letter of welcome.
- b. Irene continues to post to our Facebook page. Photos from Mary Beth's hike today were posted.

- IX. Elections in fall 2024
 - a. We can still appoint someone to our open seat.
 - b. It's never too early to start work on the elections! Mike Neeley-Brown will be on the 2024 election committee. We need two more members, one who is not on ExCom.
 - i. The new committee needs to come up with the election schedule for the ExCom to approve using the Sierra Club guidelines.
 - ii. We also need a nominations committee comprised of 3 members one of whom may not be a board member.

- X. Chapter report (Julie)
 - a. Chapter ExCom voted on some endorsements for the May primary election. The Chapter political committee did a lot of work and followed the Sierra Club rules.
 - b. The Chapter Legislative Committee and its coalition partners had several successes during the recent session of the Oregon Legislature. They helped to reduce the acreage involved in an attempt to let cities reduce their Urban Growth Boundaries.
 - c. There will be a party this Saturday in the Portland office to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the NW Forest Plan.
 - d. Chapter is looking for ways to increase its organizing power and find more volunteers.

- XI. Next meeting in June in the weeks before the potluck. (Julie will send out a Doodle poll to choose the exact date.)

- XII. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.