

Marys Peak Group Executive Committee Minutes
June 3, 2024

[Zoom](#)

ExCom: Julie Arrington, Mike Neeley-Brown, Melanie Feder, Mary Beth Downes, Leslie Hogan, Karl McCreary

Present : Dave Eckert (Dave left the meeting after his presentations at 6:56.)

Absent: Robert White

Recorder: Leslie Hogan

Meeting begun at 6:02

1. Welcome and announcements.

2. Additions or changes to the agenda. none

3. Motions passed by email.

Karl made a motion to post a tribute to Bob Custer in the Peak View. Mary Beth seconded. The motion passed by 9:24 pm on 4/28.

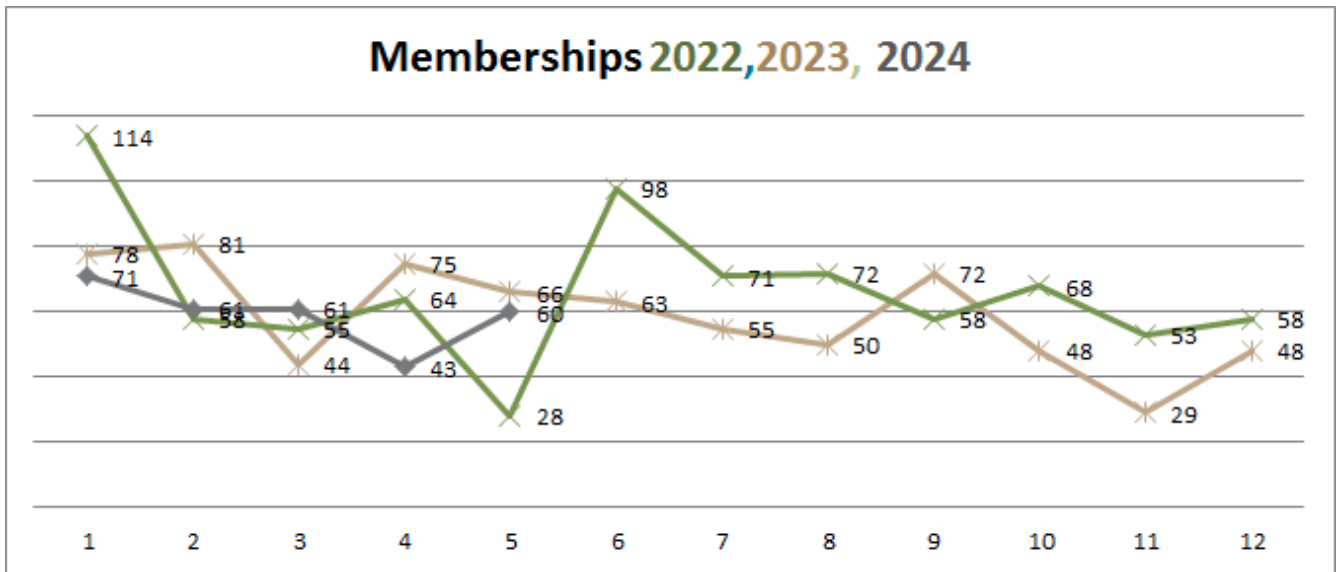
Mike made the motion and Melanie the second: I move that we use electronic voting as one of the methods to vote in the election for the 2025 Excom. Email vote ended 5/16/24. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's report

- a. \$2500 soon to come out of allocations for interpretive signs for Marys Peak. Also MPG has \$270 of foundation money.

Mary Beth made the **motion** to approve the treasurer's report and Mike made the second. The motion passed.

5. Membership report (Melanie): New member growth is down 30% from the past four years. Total membership 1,942.



6.

7. Conservation Projects (Dave)

a. Marys Peak Rock Garden Buck & Rail Fencing

Background: The unique and sensitive rock garden at Marys Peak is being quickly destroyed by members of the public who climb the rocks and stomp through the meadows destroying the unique plant communities and the very thin soil and fragile rock structures that support them. The Siuslaw National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service has agreed that a Buck & Rail wooden fence can be constructed along the uphill side of the road by the rock garden and specially engraved boulders can be placed on the downhill side of the road. They will provide the permitting approval and management of the project, but will require outside funding for the materials and labor. Some labor, but not all, can be provided by volunteers. The U.S. Forest Service has not yet provided an estimate yet, but the cost will be well over \$6,000. The Marys Peak Alliance will fund at least half of the materials and labor costs.

Motion: The MPG shall request a donation of \$3,000 from the Oregon Chapter toward buck & rail wooden fencing to be installed at the Marys Peak summit rock garden. The Frenkel Trust had left over \$100,000 from their estate to Chapter and it would be fitting they use some of that money to help protect the Frenkels' most cherished place - Marys Peak. The funding will go toward materials and labor. Leslie made the motion and Mike the second. The motion passed.

8. Programs (Dave)

a. 2024 Spring Frenkel Webinar Series videos

Marys Peak Transformed, March 14th

This 1st of the 3-part Liz & Bob Frenkel Spring Webinar Series presents how human activities over the past 200 years have already transformed the physical, ecological and cultural resources of Marys Peak, the highest peak in the Oregon Coast Range. Plus, who was Mary? Presenters include Phil Hays and Judy Juntunen from the Marys Peak Alliance and Kevin Bruce from the U.S. Forest Service.

Link to **YouTube**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fT6V9U9Gpag>

Transforming Marys Peak, April 11

This 2nd of the 3-part Liz & Bob Frenkel Spring Webinar Series presents five current projects that will help transform the Marys Peak ecosystem to thrive and overcome recent human impacts. Presenters include Michele Holman and Doug Glavich from the U.S. Forest Service, Scott Hopkins from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Kathleen Westly from the Marys River Watershed Council.

Link to *YouTube*: [Transforming Marys Peak - YouTube](#)

Imagining Marys Peak, May 9

The 3rd and final webinar will be linked to YouTube prior to the next ExCom meeting

b. 2024 Champinefu Series Program

Background: The Marys Peak Group initiated the Champinefu Series in 2017 and has been a funding and managing co-sponsor ever since. This year, we are continuing the format we initiated last year - one in-person program and two webinars. Like last year, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has requested a large in-person presentation that engages the audience with tribal cultural practices, rather than an academic-style lecture. The in-person program will be held in the new OSU PRAX Center and the entire budget for the in-person program will exceed \$5,000. In addition, we pay \$400 honorariums to each of the webinar presenters. We will continue to have the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde as the production co-sponsor and four supporting co-sponsors. The Corvallis-Benton County Public Library will provide the webinar technical support and hosting. The Spring Creek Project will fund the PRAX Center rental (not included in the \$5,000 stated costs). The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and the OSU School of Language and Culture will provide funding. To maintain our co-sponsorship, the MPG will need to financially support the program. Following are the dates of the programs.

October 9 - *Shati pi Boom Boom* - in person at OSU PRAX Center

November 6 - Subject and presenter TBD - Webinar

December 4 - Subject and presenter TBD - Webinar

Request: I am requesting a \$1,000 donation for the Champinefu Series to maintain our co-sponsorship of the series.

Karl made a **motion** for MPG to donate the \$1,000 and Mike made the second. The motion carried.

c. 2025 Spring Frenkel Webinar Series Program

Background: With wildfires, controlled burns and indigenous fire receiving a lot of attention in the wake of climate change and non-sustainable forestry practices, fire has become a central issue to life in the Willamette Valley. Curiously, no one has presented a holistic picture of fire and fire conditions in the Willamette comparing the past, present and the predicted future. We plan on doing that with 9 presenters spread over 3 webinars. The impacts on the environment as well as people will be explored and what we can do. Hopefully, more interesting titles will evolve. New information from new studies are coming out all the time.

Again, the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library will be a co-sponsor and technical host to the webinars. The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition has requested to be a

co-sponsor for 2025, much like the Marys Peak Alliance was a co-sponsor for 2024. Following are the placeholder titles and month of production.

- i. **March** - *Past Fires in the Willamette Valley*
- ii. **April** - *Current Fire Conditions in the Willamette Valley*
- iii. **May** - *The Future of Fire in the Willamette Valley*

9. Outings (Mary Beth, Mike) Mary Beth announced that MPG has a new hike leader, Cheryl Thorburn, all trained and ready to lead her first hike on June 27 at Peavy from 9:30-12:30.

Mike reports that now MPG has 7 qualified and active leaders.

10. June 22 potluck. (What we decided in April.)

- a. Items Robert has in storage:

We have a large number of name tags

1. Do we have sharpies or pens? Julie has some.

Aprons

BBQ utensils

Lots of voter registration forms from when Bill Bradbury was Secretary of State (about 20 years ago).

Tee Shirts:

2. Women's: 6 small, 13 medium, 6 large, 2 XL
3. Men's: 2 small, 3 medium, 5 large, 8 XL
4. Melanie will sell the tee shirts.

Board members agreed to sell the tee shirts at the June pot-luck for \$25 as a fund-raiser. Julie still has ARTSend books that we can also sell at the potluck for \$5.00 each. Mary Beth will set up a donation jar as well. Melanie will man the sales table.

Ask attendees to bring personal place settings, a dish to share with dietary labels, a beverage and lawn chairs.

- b. Items Julie has in storage: Sierra Club banner, pens, easel, Peak View signup sheets. She also has nametags which Mary Beth will need by 12:30 on the day of the potluck.
- c. Mary Beth arranged for Green Girl to loan us place settings.
- d. Mary Beth will buy water.
- e. Leslie will bring napkins and extra blankets for people who did not bring chairs.
- f. ExCom members bring tablecloths for at least 5 long tables.

- g. Dave gave the MPG sound system to Julie. It works!
- h. Mike and Julie will set up a sound system and extension cord.
We need a permit (\$5) to use the sound system. Julie will get it.
- i. Peak View should make notice that there will be no way to keep hot foods hot.
They should also publish the fact that Art Send books will be sold for \$5 and tee shirts for \$25.
- j. Melanie agreed to sell tee shirts and ArtSend books. Mary Beth will ask Robert to supply \$50 worth of change.
- k. Karl will help load and unload items being brought into the venue.
- l. ExCom members should come by 12:30 to start setting up tables, etc.
- m. Mike agreed to start greeting people somewhere between 12:30 and 12:45.
- n. As people arrive at the park, circulating board members can direct people to the nametags and table to leave their dishes.
- o. At around 1:15-1:30, Leslie will extend a welcome, lay out the “agenda” and invite people to start eating. She will include a land acknowledgement.
- p. At 2:45, Julie will make announcements: Introduction of officers, info about the Peak View and volunteer opportunities, information about the Champinefu lecture with Mary Beth also giving info. on outings and programs. Either Julie or May Beth or both will encourage people to volunteer to be on the nominating committee, show interest in being a board member, or take training for hike-leader.
- q. Mary Beth or Mike then talk about upcoming hikes
- r. Robert will lead a hike around the park at 3:00. Leslie will be co-leader.

11. Elections in fall 2024 (Mike)

- a. We need an elections committee and nominations committee
- b. Julie put a notice in The Peak View for people to let us know if they want to vote by digital vote. Two people responded.
- c. 2025 ExCom Executive Committee Election Schedule
- d. Nominations Committee by 8-12-24
- e. Last date to turn in names to Nominations Committee 9-13-24
- f. List of candidates by 9-18-24
- g. Petitions in by 10-7-24
- h. Final list of candidates 10-10-24
- i. Mail ballots 11-11-24
- j. Voting begins 11-18-24
- k. Voting ends 12-16-24
- l. Count votes – date to be determined

Leslie made the **motion** to approve this elections schedule and Karl made the second. The motion passed.

Mary Beth suggested two people she could ask to be on the nominating committee. 5 board members’ positions are open. It is not yet determined which sitting board members will run as incumbents. Mike volunteered to be on

the nominating committee as the one required not-up-for-election board member.

12. Chapter report (Julie) Chapter ExCom also is gearing up for elections. Julie, as a member of the legislative committee, will be involved in that pursuit this fall. Chapter political committee was busy in making endorsements for our primary election, and the conservation committee is active, notably in voicing concern over logging of old growth in McDonald Douglas Forest. The National Sierra Club supports making the Owayhee Canyonlands a national monument.
13. Next meeting in September. (Julie will send out a Doodle poll as to the exact date.)
14. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.