Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club  
Minutes for the 2020 Executive Committee  
Tuesday April 28, 2020   6:55 p.m.  Via Zoom  

ExCom: Julie Arrington (Chair), Mike Neeley-Brown (Vice-Chair), Robert White (Treasurer), Karl McCreary, Dave Eckert (Program Chair), Jules Moritz, Melanie Feder (Membership)  

Present: Leslie Hogan (secretary), Robert Verhoogen (outings), Milena Simeonova  

I. Welcome and announcements  

II. Secretary's Report/Minutes (Leslie)  
   Robert White moved and Dave Eckert seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2020 excom meeting. The motion passed unanimously via email on 2/17/20  
   Dave Eckert made the motion that MPG not endorse any candidate for Benton County Commissioner as there are no candidates that have shown themselves to be able to support the mission of the Sierra Club. Mike Neeley-Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously on 4/22/2020.  

III. Treasurer's Report (Robert W)  
Robert provided a written report, all balanced. “Business has been slow.”  

IV. The usual business  
   A. MPG ExCom elections: Julie asked for Ex Com to start thinking about people who could serve on the nominating committee and election committee. Robert W. is leaving his seat on ExCom but will remain as treasurer. Melanie offered to serve on the nominating committee. Mike reminded Ex Com that no one should be nominated before checking with the rest of the nominating committee once it is in place.. Leslie offered to serve on the elections committee. Julie agreed to follow up on two other proposed names for the elections committee. Two more members for the nominating committee are required.  
      1. Terms are expiring for Robert W, Karl, Julie, Jules  
      2. Nominations committee.  
   Three people are required by MPG’s bylaws, one of whom is not on the ExCom. They must be appointed 4 months in advance of the election, i.e., by August 1. Their names are to be reported to ExCom at least two weeks prior to the deadline for petition nominations and five weeks before
ballots are mailed.

3. Elections committee

Three people are required by MPG’s bylaws, one of whom is not on the ExCom. No candidates may serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall cause the ballots to be prepared and mailed, and shall count the returned ballots. Challenges of the conduct of candidates or their campaigns shall be referred to the Election Committee. Decisions of the Election Committee may be appealed to the ExCom.

4. Schedule:

   December 1: Voting ends. The elections must be held in the fourth quarter of the year.
   November 3: Ballots must be received by this date.
   October 27: Deadline to send ballots to members.
   MPG has to allow four weeks for the return of ballots and a week to get the ballots to the members.
   September 22: Deadline to present the slate of candidates to ExCom. (MPG bylaws that this must happen five weeks before the ballots are mailed.)

B. Jules and Milena agreed to take over the job as Peak View co-editors upon the retirement of the much-appreciated Robert Verhoogen.

C. Jane Luther asks ExCom to look for a replacement for her as our statistician. Julie will verify with Jane if Ken F. is keeping track of first aid statistics. Melanie offered to visit Jane and see what her system is and take over that role. Julie will send Melanie Jane’s contact information. Jane is legendary within MPG for her record keeping, and MPG thanks Robert V. and Jane for their lengthy and distinguished service.

D. Disruptive behavior policy

Robert W. suggested that having verification to back us up about concerns with disruptive hikers and going through channels gave MPG clarity in forming its disruptive behavior policy. Those channels include getting Chapter and National involved. Ex Com agreed to add into the existing disruptive behavior policy the understanding that leaders not list the initial hike carpool site. As members sign up on-line they will be vetted and at that time told where to meet. Irene will be made aware of this policy as she lists hikes on the web-site.

E. Membership (Melanie)

F. Corvallis Climate Action Advisory Board (CCAAB) wants to reduce natural gas usage in Corvallis. The Board made a presentation of ideas to the City Council.
Melanie had read on-line information from that Feb.27 meeting and summarized it as follows:

The main discussion was centered on a natural gas initiative to reduce natural gas emissions in Corvallis. NW Natural noted that natural gas is responsible for only 3% of all Corvallis’s emissions and wondered at the fact that NW Natural Gas is being singled out. Representatives discussed renewable hydrogen from solar/wind that can be stored in gas pipelines. Another discussion from Oregon Department of Energy (ODE) was centered on methane, mainly methane from agriculture and landfill that can be used as a form of gas energy similar to Portland’s plant.

I didn’t see their path forward. No one seemed like they wanted to write a proposal.

Recommendations to City Counsel included loans to organizations instead of to individuals to further CCAAB goals to the tune of $55K. CCAAB also wanted $30K for weatherization from Counsel for low income residences. Bike paths were also discussed. They were also asking people to sign the letter to Ed Ray regarding OSU forestry practices.

Mike further noted that the city inventory of natural gas has been going up when the goal is for the natural gas inventory to go down.

G. Chapter Executive Committee meetings (Julie)

Drew Kerr is stepping down as Chair. He is helping the trio of Hilary Shohoney, Kama Siegel and Lara Jones take over as Co-Chairs. Julie still needs to make a proposal to use the money in the Chapter budget that is dedicated for Groups as MPG’s give/get.

Many Rivers Group in Eugene has been hit by the same spam for a couple of months as the one who hit MPG up to buy gift cards for them. It’s been happening nationally.

National has an IT safety class that we can take.

Chapter voted to endorse Jamie McLeod-Skinner for Oregon Secretary of State.

H. Endorsements for fall election

MPG needs to study new procedural information from National. Chapter must approve our endorsements for both city and county elections.

Julie asked ExCom to stay tuned into City Council and Benton County Commissioner elections. So far MPG will not endorse any commissioner candidates and does not have a record of endorsing City Council candidates. Nevertheless, she asked Ex Com to stay aware of these two bodies.

I. Letter to the new Dean of Forestry

Julie will write a letter to the new dean of forestry to introduce MPG to him. Milena suggested advertising hikes with OSU/Forestry Dept. in order to
diversify the hikers who join MPG hikes.

J. Facebook policy--to be continued.

V. The future. How do we go forward?
   A. Outings (Robert V.)
      1. Hike leaders are getting their first aid training. Robert V. led a discussion on the value of Wilderness First Aid vs. straight first aid for the specialized needs required of hikers out of reach of 911 help.
      2. There have been difficulties with using Campfire to access OLT101 training.
      3. Julie asked if MPG wants to support the OSU Dept. of Forestry when it reopens the trails. She hoped to be able to publicize Forestry requirements and restrictions.
      4. How do we proceed with hikes once we get clearance from National? It was suggested that MPG just wait until we get clearance to hike and see what restrictions are in place at that time.
      5. Peak Sports had suggested doing joint hikes. Again, ExCom suggested waiting before moving forward with a plan.
   B. Conservation update (Dave)
      1. Interpretive displays on Marys Peak to honor Liz & Bob Frenkel
         A week ago Marys Peak Alliance and the Forest Service started making a film about Marys Peak with money from the Liz Frenkel Family Trust. The project will include a short film and then vignettes of ecological and cultural values of Marys Peak. The displays will come as a result of that film. The Forest Service originally wanted no action taken on enhancements to Marys Peak using the Frenkel gift until the whole plan was complete. This film is a welcome departure from that policy. As an extension of this way to showcase Marys Peak, Dave suggested the possibility of MPG having its own Youtube channel for virtual tours of local trails.
      2. Dunawi Regeneration Project.
         MPG has allocated $500 for November 2020 plantings. There will be a planting despite current societal disruptions. The organizational structure of the planting will be determined by the strictures in place with the covid virus. The project in general is moving forward.
      3. The Elakha Alliance
         Coastal hikes in the beginning of June and the sea otter symposium in Newport Oct. 5 and 6 are both on “pandemic hold.”
      4. Garfield Elementary School Native Arboretum Destruction
In 2016 a planting was established and has since flourished. The trees in that planting are now to be rooted out for a parking lot. Dave had been in contact with the school about a substitute planting. Julie volunteered to take photos of the avenue of trees before they are removed in June.

5. Electrifying Building Codes for the City of Corvallis
   Dave looked into a model for this project in San Jose but the model didn’t transfer successfully to Corvallis.

6. Interpretive signs on Dunawi Creek
   Six of the displays are in, but all else is on hold through the pandemic.

   C. Programs (Dave)
   Champinefu Lecture Series (4th Season)
   Dave doubts the wisdom of having 300 people in an auditorium in the fall. Also, trying to do the series virtually takes away from the vitality of the relationship with the tribes. As MPG watches the progression of the pandemic, it is likely this year’s season will be cancelled.
   Melanie reported that the annual Outdoor Day at Peavy Arboretum has been cancelled.
   Karl suggested the ExCom think of new approaches to programming and doing our work in general.

VIII. Next meeting: June TBD or as needed.

IX. Motion to adjourn made by Julie. Mike made the second. Meeting adjourned at 8:56.