

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
April 6, 2016
Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Bill Brainerd, Gerald Brown, Mike Hoppus, Dave Moscatello, Jim Wylie

Attending by Phone:

ExCom Members Absent: John Butler, Anne Lovett, Mathew Himmelein, Prasad Ramnath, Dennis Winters,

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Emily Davis

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie at 6:45

Secretary: Minutes for February and March were approved with corrections.

Treasurer: The balance in the checking account in March was \$1,001.27. We have received \$900 from the chapter for space rental at CityCoHo that takes it to September. I've paid the March and April rent to CityCoHo and the calendar bill. Deducting the \$5 bank charge that leaves a balance in April of \$1,035.51. I have no update yet on our c3 foundation account. I should be the second quarter statement sometime during the first and second week of May.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Green Justice Philly (GJP) Activities (Dave_

Anthony Giancattarino reported that SBN held a sustainable procurement hearing with Councilwoman Reynolds-Brown. We pitched the idea of renewable energy procurement as outlined in the google docs we are working on. It was well received. Follow-up on this work - Matt has been helping to bridge together the procurement conversation with solar states.

PennEnvironment Campaign Organizer Zoë Cina-Sklar provided a couple of updates from PennEnvironment:

- 1) **SOLAR SCHOOLS:** On March 10th, PennEnvironment released a report on putting solar on Philadelphia's public schools along with Councilman Derek Green and other Council members, the PFT and other supporters. The report shows that the district can cover nearly 40% of its electricity needs and save \$13 million on its utility bills by installing solar on school rooftops. Using the PPA model, these installations would require little or no upfront investment by the district. The report got good coverage in the Notebook, the Tribune, CBS and Newsworks. After the report release, Zoë had multiple meetings with the school district, and they seem generally receptive.

On April 11th at 1pm, there will be a hearing in the City Council Environment Council to discuss the solar schools report and possibilities for implementation.

PennEnvironment is also putting together a petition in support of solar schools (with a separate petition specifically targeted to teachers). Matt said that CAC can send it along, and I have requested a copy.

- 2) **MEETING WITH HELEN GYM:** A few weeks ago, PennEnvironment had a productive meeting with Shanee from Councilwoman Gym's office and she offered to set up a meeting between the Councilwoman and our coalition in late April. If you're interested in participating, please fill out this doodle poll, and we can hopefully find a time that works!

Other Green Justice Activities:

GJP focusing on blocking refinery expansion based on air quality rules through AMS permit; also pushing for more air quality monitoring near refinery, and to monitor benzene (a known carcinogen). GJP opposes LNG/NGL infrastructure at Southport Port expansion, had excellent attendance at the PRPA Public Event on Wednesday 3/9/16.

GJP rallied outside the Energy Hub event at the Chemical Heritage Foundation on March 30, 2016, and got good coverage.

Dave attended BCC in-person meeting 3/8/16, on call 3/15, 3/22

Dave participated in State Chapter webinar/ call 3/22 @ 7:30 pm on Clean Power Plan/ Adopt-a-Legislator

Dave participated in Loyalsock State Forest Natural Gas Infrastructure Tour with Bryan Crenshaw on Sunday, March 20, 2016 led by Tom Torres, with a dozen or so local participants from other groups. Saw reservoir and water withdrawal infrastructure, completed well pad, pipeline ROW, compressor station.

Political Committee: Bill Brainerd and Karen Melton, Co-chairs

Karen said the chapter had approved all of candidates that we submitted. Lists of Endorsed candidates are available on the SPG website as well as the Chapter Web site. Our facebook page should not be used to promote candidate that have not been endorsed. Opinions of candidates can be shared as long as the opinions of all candidates for the office are presented.

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat Beaudet)

On Thursday, we will distribute a convio blast to members only. Purpose is to inform membership of SPG's endorsements for PA Primary. It also includes upcoming events for Earth Day (week? month?).

At the ex-com, I'd like to discuss future communications. Jim has suggested we do a quarterly newsletter mainly containing articles and set some target dates now so people can get started on their writing assignments. Convio blasts can then be used for special events and notices.

Thanks to Karen, Bill and Jim for producing Thursday's blast. A great job was done by all. Social Media: (Mat) I continue to be chief proliferator of all things Sierra club/ environmentally topical on social media. I've begun to dribble pseudo-political education awareness stuff on our site. Partially to stir up the diversity of our posts but also to get people to start thinking about the political process heading toward the all-important election season.

JP asked if there was a specific schedule for newsletters. Pat said they come out 4 times per year but that we don't have a schedule. Jim asked Pat to create a schedule and get back to us. Convio blasts will still go out as needed.

Education Committee: (Bill Brainerd)

Karen put together the program for April 18 on Justice in the Transition to Our Renewable Energy Future. Sue Edwards will speak briefly for the Sierra Club. Anthony Giancatarino from the Center for Social Inclusion and Terry Williams from Eastwick Friends and Neighbors will be the speakers.

Prasad is working with Bill to schedule Wild Utah presentations by Travis Hamill of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) on June 6, 7 and 8 at CCP, Media and North Philly. Help needed for

- 1) Sierra Club representation at these talks - I can do North Philly.
- 2) Material for sign up Desk
- 3) Banner
- 4) Poster posting - SUWA will mail Bill the posters

Nomination Committee: No report

Old Business

Beyond Coal: Dave, Gary and Stg Brown are meeting with Kristine Knapp of the Sustainability Office to ask for the Smog Rule and the Clean Power Plan. They are also looking for support for more air quality monitoring, particularly the personal monitoring system discussed at the January meeting (Tzoa).

Member Engagement: Mike is coordinating a meeting for members from Delaware County that will focus on the ramifications of over development on air and water quality. Anne is working on house parties in Montgomery County. Prasad lead a hike in Montgomery County. Brian McNamara is leading meetings in Bucks County regarding the Elcon Rycycling Center.

Outdoor Activity: and Dave will be participating in the training for Sierra Club Outdoor leaders on June 3. Amy Kwasnski and Bryan Crenshaw may lead walks as well.

Mike reported some statistics indicating that younger people are utilizing the recreational facilities of the parks less. He said the average age of users of the Boundary Waters is increasing about a half a year each year and that the average age of park users is increasing in other parks as well.

New Business

Soda Tax: Mike moved, Gerald Brown seconded, to support the soda tax being proposed by the city. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.