Minutes as recorded by Ann Koenig (thank you!)

June 8, 2023

Notes from MCFC meeting on 6/8/23

14 in attendance and 4 on-line. All meetings for 2023 will start at 10:00 a.m. in the Conservation Employees Credit Union.

Treasurers report, J McMains: total in all accounts $81,4285.25 as of today

Conference Planning Update, Sara Crowder: St. Joseph Sept. 20-22. Noon on Wednesday for preconference workshop, Thursday morning conference starts. End, Friday at noon.

* Web site is updated.
* The conference theme is “Branching Out: Equitable and Creative Thinking for a More Sustainable Community Canopy”.
* Speaker highlights: Dr Christine Carmichael and Dr Geoffrey Donovan.
* Maximum attendance at the conference will be 100 unless the room layout is modified.
* Conference registration was voted on as $200 by the group. Motion passed.
* Discussion on who will take on registration. Forest ReLeaf is going to investigate handling registration.
* Intro at the conference will include a 5-minute presentation by a regional representative. Intro to include: when and where the regional group meets, what the group has done in the recent past/highlights and who to contact to get involved in that region. Regions MUST get Chuck Conner the name of the regional person who will make this introduction by August 1.
* Discussion on vendor numbers, prices, sponsors, etc.
* Awards luncheon will include Arbor Awards of Excellence
* Social will include Glore Psychiatric Museum
* Next conference is tentatively scheduled for Columbia, either late summer/fall 2024 or perhaps early spring 2025. To be decided.

Strategic Plan, Dean Alberty: Dean will be sending letter to “active members” asking people to read strategic plan and respond with what benchmarks have been met. Dean will email active members and will report back to the state group with a synopsis at our next meeting on August 10th.

Communications Committee meeting, Meridith Perkins:

* The Communications committee has been tasked with investigating an executive director. Committee has made a draft job description, with estimated 430 hours of time in meeting management, subcommittee support, annual conference coordination, communication support with newsletter/web site management etc., poster contest collaboration and awards management. Suggested financial request to MDC is not to exceed $25,000. Russell Hinnah is hopeful that can be found but that it might be December before funds are secured. Russell will reach out to Meridith about a time frame on securing funds. If this is the case, the goal for hiring might be around the beginning of the year.
* Brett O’Brien will be writing Summer Cityscape. He is asking for articles. He is also researching the possibility of podcasts.

Poster contest, Jon Skinner: letter to teachers will be going out soon to both Springfield and the state. Troy is working on a letter. The theme for the poster contest is “Trees Work for Our Backyard Friends”. Jacob will send a letter to MCFC through Constant Contact as well so that members stay connected to poster contest and are encouraged to seek out school’s participation. The group discussed the benefits of the winner being presented with the award at their school rather than our MCFC conference.

Financial oversight: suggestion of this committee putting together an annual budget which might promote activity, assist executive director and the conference committee.

Website committee: Martha Clark: Martha is holding down the web site fort. Sara Crowder now also has access to up-date conference. Information. Martha said we need to get the regional reps & at-large members updated on the page.

SMA report: their magazine City Trees is now available for free to everyone, not just for members.

Forest ReLeaf report, Meridith Perkins: their organization is growing, 9 paid staff and 5 paid interns. New work around training volunteers, environmental justice, Tresilience program. Communitree application period opens July 1. Meridith would like to know of interest in places around the state to do regional drops. The Tresilience program will be a presentation at the MCFC conference.

MDC report, Russell Hinnah: 1.5 in IRA funding is secured to MDC for Tresilience program, timeline to actual get funding is unknown, will have 5 years to spend it. IRA applications to non-states were due in June. IRA to $250,000,000 allocated to states, rest to partners. IRA to US Forest Service is 1.5 billion. May also get a 5-million-dollar grant through America the Beautiful for Tresilience as well. Tree City dropped to 103 from 110 last year in the state. Drew Hines is Russell’s new supervisor. From outside MDC. His background is Green Job Corps in Chicago and is retired from the military.

MW ISA report, Brett O’Brien: arborist training is June 16 in Sedalia. Tree climbing competition is the upcoming weekend.

TCIA conference is November 15-17 in St. Louis.

MoFRAC report, Gene Brunk: Gene will be retiring as our representative by the end of the year. Gene reported the MoFRAC meeting had a presentation on Ozark Chinquapin research and Carol Davit provided a presentation on the MO Invasive Plant Council.

Federated Garden Club, Timothy (Woody) Wells: Woody attended their conference and will report information from that at-large group.

MoIP Council: There were 9 locations for the Pear Buy Back event this year which occurred April 18.

Regional reports: KC and NW busy with conference. 10 volunteer hours, Central met once. 40 volunteer hours. NE’s Hannibal tree board is doing a lot of watering. 30 volunteer hours, EC STL 56 hours volunteers and had a Certified Arborist class. Will be touring Pea Ridge in the fall. SW met in April and May. They worked in Veterans cemetery at their meeting in May. Also, conducted 15 arbor day poster contest events. 250 volunteer hours.

Lunch was from Panera Bread – thanks Jacob for ordering! Adjourned at 12:35.