

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Online Meeting

October 12, 2022

Attendees: Ron H, Britni C, Phyllis H, Rouanna, Bob G, Mark L, Cynthia B, Betsy H

Moderator: Ron H, Minutes: Britni C

Old Business

1. Lane County Climate Action Plan: The [Bicycle Master Plan](#) was passed.
2. [That's My Farmer Dinner](#) October 17th: Fresh local food prepared by chefs. Tickets are \$50; \$25 goes to That's My Farmer Low Income Fund. Sign up to sit down and eat or pick up food.
3. Congregations of the Earth Care Interfaith Fund: Award for Outstanding Sustaining Partners from Long Tom Watershed Council. The fund has given a total of \$25,000 in the past five years; \$7,600 this year. It was initially started to offset carbon emissions of congregation members.
4. River Clean-up reports for Sept 17, 24:
 - Mt. Pisgah: Invasive species removal (teasel, hawthorne berries); 17 people participated
 - Alton Baker cleanup: Cynthia filled a bag of garbage (some left over from camps)
5. Protecting mature and old growth forests: [Climate Forests Coalition new COP27 petition](#) to the Biden administration about the importance of mature and old growth forests for climate change mitigation. Signatures to be presented to regional Forest Service offices at rallies Nov. 14-18.
6. [Divest Oregon](#): State Treasurer Tobias Read made statements in agreement with Divest Oregon in an op-ed in the New York Times. The [Treasury Climate Protection Act](#) has been submitted. Action opportunities: provide written testimony by October 26th or testify in person at an Oregon Investment Council meeting (next meeting: November 2). Sign up to attend [here](#).
7. Faiths 4 Climate Justice [International Month of Action](#) from October 2 to Nov 6, onset of COP27. If your congregation has any events coming up you may enter them on the website.
8. Leadership: Anyone is welcome to volunteer.

New Business

1. Film, [The Territory](#), National Geographic documentary of struggle by Indigenous peoples in Brazilian rainforest against encroachment. Supported by the same group that provided Paris to Pittsburgh. Possible joint effort with UU Church? Maybe we can provide films that we'd like to see shown at the Unitarian Universalist Church for their monthly Earth Action Movie Night. Ask about live streaming on Zoom. Include captions.
2. Movie [Beyond Zero](#) (in development): Perhaps the UO could host a screening? There is

currently a steep cost for hosting a screening.

3. Betsy delivered 100 EK brochures to the UU office. These may be picked up at UU or St Mary's (request ahead of time and let them know how many you need). We need to distribute them to our congregations.

4. Next clean up volunteer event: Saturday, October 22nd 9-12 Trail Party at Mt. Pisgah; Park at southeast parking lot off of 58. Mark will send out more information. It would be helpful to have someone to keep an eye on cars.

Also, on November 12 Mark will attend Glassbar Island/Turtle Flats Restoration Tour to get a scope of the project.

5. Randy Woodley will be in Eugene at the Eugene Friend's Meeting Retreat in early February. If anyone is interested in having him speak at another event during the same weekend, email Cynthia.

Education Discussion

First 15 Exercises of Becoming Rooted by Randy Woodley: People noted connections to Braiding Sweetgrass. "Harmony" was an especially powerful topic. The exercises are helping us to be more in tune with the natural world.

Discussion Topics

1. Overconsumption and Holiday Shopping: Britni will make an educational brochure to share. If you have additional ideas, please email Britni at britnicacan@gmail.com

Brainstormed ideas:

- - Give an activity
- - Give to a non-profit or individual who needs support
- - Handmade gifts
- - Edible gifts
- - Books
- - Coupon books
- - For kids: money based on age; a third to spend, a third to share, a third to save

Next Meeting

Online: November 9, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Moderator : Sue C

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: Chapters 16-30, Becoming Rooted, by Randy Woodley

Addendum, submitted by Dennis R

I want to pass on some updates on other groups I have been meeting with especially the Fossil free Eugene Coalition. 350 Eugene offers the below very good update on that process:

“Electrify Eugene

With the untimely and undemocratic recall of duly elected Ward 7 Eugene City Councilor, Claire Syrett, our *Climate Champion*, we are regrouping and revising our strategy to maintain the momentum to advance these important electrification motions passed in July:

- Directs staff to draft ordinance language to mandate that all new homes be constructed 100% electric by June 1, 2022,
- Advance conversations to transition new commercial and industrial construction to require all electric,
- Directs the City Manager to formalize Eugene’s goal of electrifying all existing residential and commercial buildings by 2035, and
- Directs the City Manager to return to the city with a public engagement plan regarding the transition of existing buildings to all electric, focused on social, environmental and economic equity.

Organizational members of the strong and growing Fossil Free Eugene Coalition have planned a steady stream of public testimony in support of electrification, AND are targeting the upcoming Public Hearing, likely in the new year, for MASSIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY in favor of electric energy for all new buildings (with a few specific exemptions). We’ll be reaching out as soon as we have a date for the Public Hearing. Meanwhile, if you’ve never spoken at city council, consider this opportunity. We’ll make it super easy.

To understand the campaign, access resources and talking points, go to the Fossil Free Eugene website and start preparing. We need an epic turnout to the Public Hearing. Grassroots organizing gets the goods!”

OTHER CITY OF EUGENE NEWS

- NOW IS THE TIME to offer testimony and/or reach out to your own City Councilors As you may be aware Northwest Natural has been putting lots of money into a campaign to oppose the changes. It takes a lot of action to bale to counter a well-funded corporate media campaign. As noted the Coalition can help you prepare. I will be attending an all day retreat on Oct 21 with other campaign participants to learn about and offer suggestions as to how to move forward at the City and County level
- The Sustainability Commission on which I serve will be finalizing our annual work plan at our Oct 19 meeting. There are vacancies that Councilors Yeh and Keating can fill. Contact them if

interested. The city's sustainability efforts has been moved from the City Managers Office to Public Works which looks like a positive move that should result in more concrete action.

- A new Sustainability Manager Randy Penn began work in September

The County is hiring new Climate programs staff.

The upcoming elections are of vital importance in our efforts. Tina Kopek is the only one of the three candidates for governor who has not announced their intentions to overturn the sweeping Climate Action Plan established as an executive action by the current governor Please let your friend family and fellow congregants know. In addition in the West Lane County Commissioner Race only Dawn Leslie has committed to continuing climate response efforts.