

## **EarthKeepers' Minutes**

Online Zoom Meeting 630 - 800pm

Wednesday December 8, 2021

Present: Ron H, Merrily, Rouanna, Dennis, Cynthia, Katharine, Sue

Dennis gave a report on his visit with Keith and Karen, and also on the wonderful work for our environment that Keith is involved with in England.

Bill McKibbin has started a group called 3rd Act, [thirdact.org](http://thirdact.org). After a discussion it was decided that we could get involved and explore this groups on our own.

### **Old Business:**

- 1.) Green Circles networking needs a liaison from our group. We hope for a volunteer in the future.
- 2.) Ron spoke to the Divest Oregon activity. He would encourage us to keep the pressure on when ever we have the opportunity. Oregon Legislators had an op ed in the Oregonian, and will introduce a bill in next years session to disclose Oregon's fossil fuel holdings.
- 3.) There is a trifold ready for Earth Care Interfaith Fund. Thanks to Betsy and St. Mary's Episcopal Church for all the work! Merrily recounted her experience of trying to go to her Church Council with information. From this experience she suggests going to the group directly, with no "middle person".
- 4.) Katharine will explore how to send the Trifold electronically so we can all try to get this (and the support of our Church governance to sign on to the Trifold) for Christmas Donations.  
Dennis suggested that we work toward Earth Day in April, to have a collection from each church go to this fund. Katharine will be handing out the Trifold at her church next Sunday. Perhaps there is a way to have some acknowledgment if a donation is made in the name of someone else.
- 5.) The actual carbon offset was tabled until more info is available.
- 6.) As per Dennis, the City Council is making progress toward decreasing the use of NG. The next city Council meeting is this Monday at 5:30 pm with public comments later in the evening. The City has 3 good environmental committees planned, but not the staff to back up the plan.
- 7.) Dennis spoke on the difficulties that are occurring with NAACP, as they transition with leadership.
- 8.) There are several groups working to plant trees, and to identify Heritage Trees in and around Eugene/Springfield. Rouanna will observe the Springfield Tree Equity Project on 12-9-21. Cynthia invited us to use our bikes to help her as she invites other to plant trees Jan. 8, 2022. This will be her Birthday Celebration! Planting trees with groups, might be a really good way to include our

Congregations in something very positive. Merrily, talked of how important Heritage tree ID is, so we don't lose these very special trees. Rouanna reported that there is an opportunity tomorrow 12-9-21 to plant at Alton Baker Park near Centennial.

9.) Ron reported on the Bicycle Master plan and thanked those of our group who participated in the Lane County online questionnaire. They got a good response from the Lane County planners, who indicated the entire Rt. 99 corridor is being considered for bicycle and walking upgrades. He feels new funds from the federal government will also impact development of local bike paths.

10.) Merrily will send a letter in our name to the U of O, as they are continuing to use NG in new buildings. Her letters, it was noted, get really good responses.

**New Business:**

1.) Interfaith Power and Light have kits available for Faith Climate Action Week , April 22-May 1.

2.) Rouanna reported that No Waste Eugene has good information and is asking for support. See [NoWasteEugene.org](http://NoWasteEugene.org)

3.) Katharine will work toward sending letters to local media concerning Earth Care Interfaith Fund as an alternative gift idea.

4.) We will continue to look for other folks to help with our present leadership model for IE.

Submitted by Sue C.