

Minutes. Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting

July 10, 2024

Attendees: Mark L, Dennis R, Britni C, Ron H, Cynthia B, Sue C, Carl B, Tom B, Betsy H, Jerry S

Moderator: Dennis Minutes: Britni

Continuing Business

1. Fossil Free Eugene and Sustainability Commission: Fossil Free is trying to get a push on info and outreach to city councilors. A motion was made that they revisit the gas issue this month. Sustainability staff will present to the Council on information they heard from a variety of community groups, including the business community and chamber of Commerce, regarding decarbonization. Sue represented Earthkeepers. On July 17th, staff will report to the City Council on actions that other municipalities have taken. It is a good time to send comments to your councilor if you live in Eugene. The Sustainability Commission is trying to table at neighborhood events this summer. Bethel is the most active association in the city.

2. OCERA (Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment): There is a petition to get the rights of nature on the ballot starting at the county level. They gave a presentation to the UU Earth Action group, and they will be asking people to sign the petition at the Oregon Country Fair. It was brought up that some people have concerns about it, so read carefully if you consider signing it. This came out of a movement to keep pesticides from being sprayed in watersheds and forests.

3. Sign-on Letters: EK leadership members have signed on to some petitions that they feel represent the values of the group without bringing them all to the whole group.

4. July 5th Third Act Bill McKibben Webinar: There were a lot of people from 350 Eugene, UU Earth Action, and Interfaith Earthkeepers. One of the main messages is that we need to pull together. There was also a discussion with three youth climate activists, including a student from Eugene who is also on the Sustainability Commission.

5. Email list: We need to look at the list to see if there are any that need to be deleted; for example, those who are no longer living or faith organizations that need to be added. It was suggested that an unsubscribe option be added. Ron and Rouanna had been maintaining an updated list in the past. The current list has 92 people. When using the list, be sure to use BCC. If you want to send something to the whole group, send it to Mark or Dennis; or, you may ask them for the email list.

New Business

1. New Events Calendar: The calendar is on the [EKs homepage](#). Cynthia created a Gmail account for EKs that people can send event listings to: interfaithearthkeepers@gmail.com. She created a list of guidelines that are linked above the calendar. She doesn't want to list every nature/environmental event in the area. The question of whether or not we want to use the gmail account for people to send inquiries as well as events was brought up. If so, who else would access the account and respond? It was suggested that we keep the gmail account for events. We should check in with Rouanna to see if she wants to continue to be the point person for people who find us on the website. Tom suggested that we include events from outlying areas such as Veneta and Cottage Grove. People tend to think of "green" activities as happening in Eugene, but there are people doing this work in smaller towns and rural areas as well. In the future, we might want to consider changing the name from Eugene Springfield to Lane County Interfaith EarthKeepers. Cynthia is going to write a letter introducing the calendar and send it out to Mark/Dennis to send to the email list.

2. The Year to Save the Earth Event: A music and multimedia event by Jim Scott will be held at Unity of the Valley church at 6:00pm on Sunday, July 28th.

3. Upcoming Presidential Election: The upcoming presidential election is crucial in regards to climate action and other environmental crises. Trump told the oil industry that if they send him money for his campaign, he will cater to their wishes. Suggestions and groups to look into include UU the Vote, Third Act, Focus for Democracy, 350 Eugene postcard writing event on July 25th through the Reclaim our Vote campaign, and getting young people who are just turning 18 to vote. Focus for Democracy doesn't take money from the people who attend their webinars. They recommend campaigns that are underfunded and have outsized impact. Also, Accelerate Change targets people through social media. (Added after meeting: If you couldn't make it to the 350 postcard writing event, they have packets of 60 cards available for pickup in Eugene or Springfield. Email GOTV-Deb at zaporegon123@gmail.com .)

Additional Discussion:

There is a new lightweight roof tile that produces solar energy.

The water situation at Warm Springs is still in need of help. (Added after meeting: Sue sent an email with information about how to help.)

There was a discussion about sponsoring individual events that are not faith based. A proposal was made that we will endorse events that are consistent with our values. Everyone present agreed. There was some concern about some groups not always being peaceful as well as the extra workload for Cynthia. It was decided that we will endorse events on a case by case basis.

Education Discussion - Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy - Chapter 11

This is the last chapter of the book, and it includes a summary of previously discussed actions:

- Shrink the lawn.
- Remove invasive species.
- Plant keystone genera of native plants.
- Be generous with your plantings.
- Plant for specialist pollinators.
- Network with neighbors.
- Build a conservation hardscape.
- Create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees.
- Do not spray or fertilize.
- Educate your neighborhood civic association.

Also, it was suggested that we continue to share with our congregations/grounds crews.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2024 at 12:00-1:30pm (online and in person at Unitarian Universalist Church)

Moderator: Dennis

Minutes: Britni

Education Session: Read the Introduction of Becoming Earth: How Our Planet Came to Life by Ferris Jaber