

Minutes, Interfaith EarthKeepers Hybrid Meeting
September 13, 2023

Attendees: Sue C, Mark L, Rouanna G, Gary S, Ruth D, Dennis R, Bob G, Carl B, Charlotte, Eunice K, Jerry S, Britni C, Ron H

Moderator: Dennis R; Minutes: Britni C

Continuing Business

1. Advocacy Updates

- Fossil Free Eugene: City Council voted to withdraw the proposal because a federal ruling declared that the City of Berkeley, CA did not have local authority to ban fracked gas. Berkeley has requested a review of the decision. Ashland is exploring an alternative method of setting a standard for indoor air pollutants such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides, and nitrogen dioxide. This could be a model for Eugene.
- Divest Oregon: In June, a [strong letter](#) was sent to the Oregon State Treasury and Oregon Investment Council urging them to take action now. The letter was signed by EarthKeepers as well as over 100 other organizations and representatives. They will introduce another bill in the 2024 short legislative session. There is pressure on Governor Kotek to declare a state climate emergency.

2. Turtle Flats: There is a tentative work party for November 11th (to be confirmed). There is a request to tour Glassbar Island in November. Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum no longer plan to merge.

Friends of Buford Park still wants to explore the possibility of a site adoption with EKs, which would involve providing keys to the gate of Turtle Flats and access to volunteer tools, which would empower the group to do independent organizing of work parties. They are still in need of trail sentinels to tell people to turn around and away from controlled burns. If interested, contact Jared at volunteer@bufordpark.org .

New Business

1. The **University of Oregon** has created a **Thermal Systems Task Force**, which is responsible for reviewing the UO's thermal heating infrastructure and recommending how best to reduce the system's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

2. **EWEB Nuclear Reactors:** EWEB has been asked to consider “small” nuclear reactors to generate electricity. Sierra Club has come out against this because there is no plan for the nuclear waste. On October 9th at 7pm, Art House will show the documentary Atomic Bamboozle.

- Discussion: There may be technical improvements to this technology. Climate scientist James Hansen is supportive. More information is needed. It has the potential to contribute to nuclear proliferation.

3. Keith completed a Climate Smart Class through the Yale School of Forestry. Perhaps he would be interested in giving a presentation.

Education - Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy

The book is available as an eAudiobook (free) through Hoopla via Eugene Public Library (search the title on the [library website](#)).

- Cynthia: It is worth reading. Nature isn't out there; it's all around us. Doug Tallamy's nonprofit website: [Home Grown National Park](#)
- Sue: Inspired by Aldo Leopold and the cranes returning because of his actions.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2023 (online and in person at Unitarian Universalist Church)

Moderator: Ron H

Minutes: Britni C

Education Session: *Nature's Best Hope* - Read through chapter 2