

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Board Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2016 at 6:30 PM
Jefferson Building, Room 104
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD**

Welcome and Introductions: Larry Zeafra called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Larry welcomed members and guests to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

January Meeting Minutes: The January 20, 2016 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeffrey Budnitz reported:

- Cash position: \$88,757.49
 - General funds: \$46,479.47
 - Reserved funds: \$42,278.02 (for Education Building)
- Hard Assets: \$178,596.98

Rec & Parks Staff Report: Ranger Shannon Davis reported the following:

- Ordered bench today for the play area
- Bird expo was cancelled due to the weather but some people did show up
- Met with Hopkins about a "bio-chair"
- Received donations for 2 pairs of binoculars
- Still doing interviews for master naturalist

Design Framework Committee (Environmental & Master Plan): Elise Butler reported the following:

The Environmental & Historic Preservation Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

This design framework is the precursor for the Master Plan for the park. In April, 2014, we invited 4 consultants to visit the park and spend the day. Carol Franklin had been to the park in the 1990's. The purpose is to bring the consultants expertise to the park. In preparation for this consultant visit, a group of us went to the Wissahickon State Park and to Dumbarton Oaks Park in DC. The consultants spent the day in April touring the park and were able to provide their reactions to the park. We requested proposals from the three different firms to work together to tell us how we can operate the park. Also discussed was creating a native plant area around the education building. The consultants came back with proposals for a 4 phase study. A separate proposal was requested from Roger Layton for the Serpentine. The proposed cost for the consultant's work is as follows:

\$ 40,000	(\$ 10,000 per phase)
<u>26,000</u>	(Roger Layton's serpentine proposal)
\$ 65-70,000	Estimated Total

The Guilford Garden Club has been involved with the park in the past and we have proposed to partner with the Guilford Garden Club.

Kay McConnell and Kimberly Warren gave an overview of the Guilford Garden Club. The Guilford Garden Club is guided by the mission statements of both the Garden Club of America and the Guilford Garden Club. All work in conjunction with Lake Roland have followed those guidelines.

The Guilford Garden Club will partner with the Lake Roland Nature Council and will:

- Complete the response to the consultant proposals
- Invite colleague of Larry Wiener, Jenna Webster, to present an example of a Design Framework
- Invite representatives of Lake Roland Nature Council, Baltimore County, Guilford Garden Club, university and college faculty to hear this presentation
- Guilford Garden Club would be pleased to fund this presentation
- Model of what the "Design Framework" product would look like
- Present sensitivity to all stakeholders
- The Design Framework would promote engagement by visitors to the park.

Kimberly Warren gave the following reasons this project is time sensitive:

- New board members and new energy
- Carol Franklin input on native plant selection around the Education Center
- New opportunity
- Guilford Garden Club members have been approached by park users
- The Garden Club of America's Annual meeting is being held in Baltimore in May of 2017 and they want to have the Design Framework started by that time and it could provide good exposure to the park

Kimberly stated that the Guilford Garden Club values its relationship with Lake Roland.

Elise Butler reported that Kay and Kimberly approached the Nature Council with the idea of working together on the Design Framework. Elise believes the partnership is timely given everything going on in the park. The Executive Committee met with Kay and Kimberly on Friday, 2/12/16 to discuss the arrangement and a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed on the structure of the relationship.

Elise stated that the LRNC has a financial obligation to fundraise for the Education Center building. Jeffrey Budnitz stated that the Memorandum of Understanding would spell out the priority of fundraising for the building.

Elise asked if the Board would give a green light to the Executive Committee to negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding, complete the questions back to the

consultants and extend an invitation to Jenna Webster. Nancy Horst made the motion to authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Guildford Garden Club and report back to the Board the status in a month and work on the questions back to the consultants. Jeffrey Budnitz seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Paw Point Committee: Beth Hoker reported that there are 468 members as of today.

Trails Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that he recovered the piling caps from the education building to reuse and that he met with Jonathan Woods to go over the project.

Membership Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that the membership renewals are going well.

Residents Committee: Rick North reported that they continue to work with Baltimore County to mitigate the office trailer impact on the Home and Hospital Property. He said that Baltimore County recently painted the trailers.

Outreach Committee: Nancy Horst reported that she is working on several articles to go into the RRLRA Newsletters. Some of the topics include:

- Native Plant Sale on April 30th with a rain date of May 1st.
- Update on the Education Center

Old Business:

Education Center: Elise Butler reported that she and Bill Jones will be going to Annapolis to thank the Delegates and Senators for their support of the bond. Elise also stated that we should plan a special dinner at the pavilion for prospective donors.

Background Checks: Larry Zeafla reported the following:

- Baltimore County is requiring all background checks be completed as of 7/1/16
- The Office of Law has established stringent rules that if there is not 100% compliance, the directors will be responsible and it is not covered by the county's insurance.

Jeffrey Budnitz stated that he has created a Board and Volunteer Database to track background check compliance.

New Business:

Committee Assignments: Larry Zeafla stated that he wants to encourage the new board members to participate on a committee.

President Larry Zeafra adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

In attendance:

Peter Bieneman
Jeffrey Budnitz
Elise Butler
Susan King-Byrne
Steve Christianson
Kurt Davis
Shannon Davis
Jim Flannery
Beth Hoker
Rob Horst
Dwight Johnson
Bill Jones
Peter Lev
Roger McMacken
Merritt Pridgeon
Lydia Redding
Gero Verheyen
Larry Zeafra
Kay McConnell
Kimberly Warren

Minutes prepared by
Jim Flannery