

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm
Lake Roland Nature Center**

Board Members Present: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Jim Flannery, Ed Brady, Lydia Redding, Dwight Johnson, Marc Klein, Carlton Sexton, Peter Lev

Other Attendees: Ranger Jonathan Wood, Kay McConnell

Welcome: Kurt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Annual Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the November 2018 Annual Meeting were approved by the Board. They will also need to be approved by the membership at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jeffrey Budnitz announced that we were able to pay down our debt on the Nature Center to \$149,500 at the end of the year. An audit was conducted on Jan. 4 by Kurt Davis and Elise Butler. They had two small questions on handling cash that Jeffrey answered. The audit report is available on the LRNC website.

Here is LRNC's balance sheet as of 1/20/19:

Assets

Checking/Savings 30,423.53

Total Current Assets 30,423.53

Fixed Assets 368,644.94

TOTAL ASSETS 399,068.47

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities 149,484.00

Total Current Liabilities 149,484.00

Total Liabilities 149,484.00

Equity 249,584.47

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 399,068.47

Rec. and Parks Staff Report: Ranger Wood reported that the main upcoming event was the Bird Extravaganza scheduled for Feb. 16 and 17, 10 am to 1 pm each day. Baltimore Bird Club and Lights Out Baltimore will be represented. Live raptors from Oregon Ridge will be part of the program. LRNC volunteers would be helpful. We discussed whether volunteers should present information about the Serpentine and Nature Center design frameworks.

Staff member Jonathan Lehman has expertise in Primitive Tech. This will lead to new programs, for example an archery program.

Art instructor Jodi Beeler has suggested we start accumulating art supplies.

Tree work on Lakeside Drive is finishing up.

Also on Lakeside Drive some work is going on to support and improve an existing culvert.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Committee: Elise Butler said there was much to report. On Dec. 5, LRNC members Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Ed Brady, and Peter Lev met at Kay McConnell's house with the leaders of the Guilford Garden Club, including incoming President Dorcas Hutton. Elise described this as a leadership to leadership meet and greet. The group discussed funding needs for Roger Latham's Serpentine Project. GGC has received a \$3,000 grant for Roger Latham's consulting that is contingent on GIS work being completed by a consultant Roger will hire. Before the Dec. 5 meeting we were very close to having the \$13,000 needed to proceed with GIS work, and by the end of the meeting we had the funds in hand. Peter Lev was asked to contact Roger Latham to green light the GIS consultant's work.

On December 19, Nathan Travis and another employee of Century Engineering did drone photography in support of both the Serpentine and Nature Center design projects. This was pro bono work set up by Bryan Haynie, head of surveying at Century Engineering. Huge thanks to Bryan Haynie, and to LRNC Board member Jim Flannery for connecting us with Bryan. Elise Butler, Kay McConnell, and Jonathan Wood spent the morning with Nathan and Jacques, the drone operators. Jeffrey Budnitz showed us selected images of the Serpentine and the area behind the Nature Center. They are spectacular. Full resolution images of the Serpentine have been sent to Roger Latham via Dropbox. Compressed versions of all images are available via the LRNC website. The full resolution images include information about elevation. This is accurate for the restored meadow, but for pine-covered areas of the Serpentine the "elevation" probably measures the tops of the pines.

In early January, Peter received a long email from Roger Latham saying that he had instructed Dr. Haag, his GIS consultant, to start work on the first three phases of the GIS work, estimated cost \$10,000. Roger thinks that this work can be finished by late March. Roger's email also talked about doing botanical surveys of the Serpentine in May and August/September 2019. He has worked with a botanist named Janet Ebert for 25 years; she is very good at plant identification. We had previously talked to Roger about having local botanist Charlie Davis do some of the work. Roger said one possibility would be for Janet to do the 2019 baseline surveys, with Charlie working alongside Janet some or all of the time. Then Charlie could do surveys in later years on his own. Both the Environmental Committee (at their 1-9-19 meeting) and the LRNC Board (at the 1-16-19 meeting) liked this idea.

Peter noted that we did not have funding for the botanical surveys. Roger estimated the cost at \$1923 for Janet working alone; Janet plus Charlie would obviously cost more. At this point Elise yielded the floor to Kay McConnell. She told us that GGC was holding some money from the Robert E. Lee Park Conservancy, an organization that was active in the 1990s, to be used for the benefit of the park. GGC's Board had voted, on Jan. 15, to donate \$4,000 from this funding source towards Roger Latham's Serpentine project. With that donation, we can fund the botanical surveys.

Peter mentioned that we also need to find someone to do an insect survey of the Serpentine area, preferably in 2019. Peter has a few ideas but would welcome suggestions from others. Kay McConnell asked about a bird survey. Peter said the bird survey was basically done; the raw results are available at ebird.org.

Paw Point Committee: Jeffrey said that Paw Point had 300 plus members so far. A high-quality vacuum/leaf blower acquired by LRNC at the end of 2018 will be especially valuable at

Paw Point, where leaves accumulate around the fences, mix with dog waste, and make a nasty mess.

Trails Committee: Trails Committee has been hampered by rain every weekend. However, committee members did manage to lay and compact 80 tons of stone on the path from L'Hirondelle Club Way to the meadow (old rugby field). Reaction from the community has been very positive.

Recreation Committee: Gero Verheyen was not present. He sent an email saying that the next Donut Run will be April 7. Ranger Jonathan Wood said that though Donut Runs are a lot of fun, they also require a lot of preparation. Jonathan expects there will be 3 Donut Runs per year going forward, 1 per season (Spring, Summer, Fall). LRNC volunteers would be very helpful.

Membership Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz said membership renewal letters were going out that week. Kurt Davis wrote the renewal letter. Kurt and Peter Lev were stuffing envelopes.

Residents Committee: No report.

Outreach Committee: We currently have no chair for this committee. Nancy Horst has left the Board. Kurt wrote two articles for the Ruxton-Riderwood newsletter, at that group's request.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.