

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Jefferson Building, Room 104
105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD**

Welcome and Introductions: Larry Zeafra welcomed members and guests to the meeting in the Jefferson Building, 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson.

September Meeting Minutes: The September 16, 2015 Board Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jeffrey Budnitz reported:

- Cash position: \$85,060.07
 - Reserved funds: \$40,958.00 (for Education Building)
 - General funds: \$44,102.07
- IRS form 990 has been completed and will go out next week

Park Name Change / Rebranding: Jeffrey Budnitz distributed the rebranding list and asked for comments.

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

- Finishing up the winter program schedule
- Met with Baltimore County Public Schools and will be doing 2nd grade programs
- Serpentine Grass – need another cleanup day – suggested December 5th or 6th.
- Merritt Pidgeon has started the Trails for Truancy program
- There are 2 Master Naturalist classes in the Spring

Jeffrey Budnitz reported that Chris McCollum is putting in the upcoming year budget a light duty pickup truck and a gator

Paw Point Committee: Beth Hoker reported the following:

- The Halloween event went very well
 - the Light Rail parking lot was full
- 2 walkup registrations yielded 60 tags
- Leaf clean up this week
- Aerating the weekend after Thanksgiving

Art on the Trail: Kurt Davis reported the following:

- Received 9 – 10 applications
- Approved 7 and they are required to be in by November 28th.
- Meet the Artist will be on December 13th at 3:00 pm in Pavilion #1
- 90 people showed up for last year's Meet the Artist

Trails Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported the following:

- He is working on the volunteer database
- He will be Co-chairing the Trails Committee with Steve Christianson

Membership Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that he is working on a membership letter to go out before the end of the year. Jeffrey also stated that the Membership Committee needs a chairperson.

Environmental & Master Plan Committees: Elise Butler reported the following:

- Environmental Committee meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.
- The Environmental Committee and the Master Plan Committee are working together and will be taking a non-traditional route for the master plan.
 - Working with professional landscape architects to come up with an “Adaptive Design Framework”
 - One of the professionals is an expert on serpentine restoration
 - The proposals from these professionals total \$65,000 - \$70,000 and the work will take place in stages
 - Elise stated that she will keep the Board apprised of the progress
 - Shannon suggested doing a “BioBlitz” in September.

Old Business:

Education Center: Jeffrey Budnitz distributed the current plans for the proposed building and gave the following update:

- Project budget is \$1,283,000 (\$1.3 M all in)
- \$340,000 needs to be raised by the Nature Council
 - \$40,958 has been raised to date; \$71,000 including \$30,000 from the Nature Council
 - Working on a deliverable for the foundations next week
- North Point Builders is the contractor
- Baltimore County is providing the FF&E for the building.

Larry Zeafla asked that all the new directors contribute to the project so that we have 100% participation by the Board.

Background Checks: Larry Zeafla stated that the county is requiring background checks that include all directors and volunteers. Jeffrey Budnitz stated that the background checks expire in one year and the Nature Council is maintaining a database to track this information.

Falls Road Maintenance Compound: Jeffrey Budnitz reported the following:

- the dumpster compound has been relocated out to Falls Road
- the county is funding \$24,000 towards the new compound
- Davey Tree and Gray and Sons are contributing services and materials
- The canoe trailer will be relocated from Oregon Ridge to the compound

New Storage Containers: Jeffrey Budnitz stated that the Executive Committee discussed the acquisition of two (2) new storage containers. A motion was made authorizing the purchase of the two (2) new storage containers which was seconded and PASSED unanimously.

New Equipment: Jeffrey Budnitz reported the following:

- The donated trailer has been renovated and licensed.
- Terex Dumper purchased by the Nature Council has a 3 ton capacity and needs to be upgraded to meet codes.
- Operators will need to be trained before operating the equipment.

New Business:

Food & Water Sport Vendor: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that the county would like to see a retail water sports and food vendor at the Park. The water sports would be kayaks and paddle boards only. A proposal was received from Ultimate Water Sports. The fishing pier is to be re-decked and the upper parking lot will be re-opened as part of this operation. Income from these vendors will be directed to the Nature Council/Park. The Park will retain the course programming.

Annual Quest Fest: Larry Zeafla stated that the county holds an annual quest festival. Shannon Davis will be looking into available dates for a fall festival in 2016. Jeffrey Budnitz suggested we support the staff programmatically and having an event would be great.

Peter Lev asked about an event for the opening of the Education Building and Elise Butler said there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening.

Larry Zeafla stated that there has been a request to cancel the December Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved.

President Larry Zeafla adjourned the meeting.

In attendance: Peter Bieneman, Jeffrey Budnitz, Elise Butler, Kurt Davis, Shannon Davis, Jim Flannery, Beth Hoker, Rob Horst, Dwight Johnson, Peter Lev, Roger McMacken, Merritt Pridgeon, and Lydia Redding, Jeff Rodman, Larry Zeafla.

Minutes prepared by
Jim Flannery