

# Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2015

Jefferson Building, 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson

**Welcome & introductions:** **President** Larry Zeafra welcomed members and guests to the meeting in the Jefferson Building, 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson at 6:37 p.m.

**July Meeting Minutes** were approved as distributed.

Nominating report: Jeff Rodman listed the following candidates for election to the Board of Directors: Steve Christianson, Kurt Davis, Robert Horst, Bill Jones, Susan King-Byrne, Merritt Pridgeon, Lydia Redding. Jeff also reported that Jeffrey Budnitz, Nancy Horst and Peter Lev have agreed to stand for another term.

**Changes to the By-laws:** On behalf of the Executive Committee, Elise Butler outlined proposed changes to the by-laws of the Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council:

1. **Name change of corporation:** On a motion by Nancy Horst and a second by Peter Lev, a motion was made to change the name of the organization from Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council to Lake Roland Nature Council. The motion passed: 13 yeas, one nay
2. **Baltimore County required criminal background checks:** on a motion by Howdy Knipp and a second by Jeff Rodman, to follow all Baltimore County requirements regarding nature and recreation councils. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Elimination of term limits for board members:** On a motion by Jeff Rodman and a second by Howdy Knipp, to eliminate term limits for Nature Council Board of Directors. Motion passed: 11 yeas, 3 nays.
4. **Clarification that the treasurer of the Nature Council is also the treasurer of Paw Point:** On a motion by Rick North and a second by Peter Lev, the clarification passed unanimously.
5. Addition of requirement that all standing committee chairs must also be members for the board, with the exception of Paw Point; On a motion by Rick North and a second by Jeff Rodman, the requirement passed unanimously.
6. **Clarification of all standing committees:** (removal of program committee, separation of Trails and Recreation Committees, addition of Development Committee). **Standing committees of Lake Roland Nature Council: Finance Committee, Development Committee, Membership Committee, Recreation Committee, Trails Committee, Environmental & Historic Preservation Committee, Residents' Committee, Civic & Community Committee, Paw Point Dog Park Committee.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeffrey Budnitz reported \$252,750 of total assets. LRNC needs to raise \$340,000 toward the Lake Roland Nature and Environmental Education Center.

**Master Plan update:** Elise Butler said at the recent meeting of the Environmental & Historic Preservation Committee there was a review of the Master Plan proposal.

**Staff Report:** Ranger Shannon Davis said that the new calendar was out, with many programs such as yoga, en plein air art class and nature scouts & princesses. Master Naturalist Dan Alper has made easels; Trail Blazers have been at work; way-finding posts have been installed at trail intersections; Baltimore County has provided funds for more equipment, such as a climbing wall, for Acorn Hill and a new bench has been installed at Acorn Hill by LRNC. Julia is on maternity leave; Anita Tyler will step in for her on a limited basis. The list of approved volunteers with background checks is on the Baltimore County website.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Paw Point:** 1097 tags have been processed, according to Jeffrey Budnitz.

**Trails:** Howdy Knipp said that 6 to 8 people worked on the trail for two weekends, removed trees at the green & red trails, put down rocks at the entrance to the blue trail, and removed trash from Jones Falls.

**Environmental Committee:** According to Elise Butler, a grid system has been employed for spraying and cutting/removal of invasives in the Serpentine.

Helga Morrow suggested that LRNC institute a mechanism to recruit and coordinate volunteers for projects.

The meeting concluded at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Worden Horst, Secretary

In attendance: Peter Bieneman, Jeffrey Budnitz, Elise Butler, Jim Flannery, Beth Hoker, Nancy Horst, Dwight Johnson, Howdy Knipp, Peter Lev, Roger McMacken, Helga Morrow, Rick North, Jeff Rodman, Larry Zeafla Ranger Shannon Davis