

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Oct. 2, 2019**

Attendees: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jim Flannery, Peter Lev, Jonathan Wood

President Kurt Davis opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

The minutes from 9/4/2019 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Current Assets as of 9/30/19

Checking/Savings	37,527.44	
Total Current Assets	37,527.44	
Fixed Assets	411,389.11	
Total Assets	448,916.55	
Current Liabilities	149,484.00	
Total Liabilities	149,494.00	
Equity	299,432.55	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		448,916.55

Staff Report:

Jonathan reported an increase in troubling incidents in the park. The Ranger Station was robbed in early September. One of the robbers was caught, and a few of the stolen items were recovered. In a separate incident, a woman scared for her own safety brandished a knife on the Red Trail. She had been harassed by bikers. She was convinced to leave the park. A few other park patrons have been belligerent to staff.

Barry Williams has retired from Balt. County Rec. and Parks. Keith Williams (no relation) is now the acting director. Chris Mervine is once again the regional director for nature parks and facilities, including Lake Roland.

People have been throwing trash and bottles at snakes under the railroad bridge. This is not a good idea; snakes are protected wildlife in Maryland.

The EC discussed how to better communicate with park patrons about snakes, dogs on leash, paths closed to bicycles, and other issues. We talked about installing kiosks at a few locations.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Report:

Elise Butler said that Kay McConnell continues to sell plants by appointment in the aftermath of the Sep. 14 Native Plant Sale. Gross receipts are now more than \$8,000.

Peter Lev reported Jim Young has completed field work for the lepidoptera study. Jim's report to LRNC is due on Jan. 1, 2020.

Old Business:

Kurt Davis wrote a Conflict of Interest Policy and a Code of Ethics (two separate documents) for LRNC, drawing from several sources, because he thought that the Conflict of Interest Policy prepared by our pro bono attorneys was difficult to understand. Discussion of Kurt's documents was tabled at the Sep. meeting.

In preparation for the Oct. meeting, Peter suggested two changes to the Conflict of Interest Policy: 1. Park Staff should not be covered, because they are not employees of LRNC; 2. A 1 page yearly signoff saying no conflicts of interest would be preferable to the 3 page signoff with Yes-No questions proposed by Kurt. EC agreed with Peter's first suggestion, but not with the second. In responding to the Yes-No questions Board members and volunteers will have to engage with the Conflict of Interest document. Peter withdrew the suggestion of a 1 page signoff.

President Kurt Davis previously planned to chair the Nominating Committee himself, but since he is a candidate for re-election that would not be wise. Jeffrey Budnitz has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. 6 people have been nominated as directors. If all 6 are elected, the balance between cohorts would not be ideal—one cohort would have 6 directors, another would have 4. Elise Butler volunteered to be nominated for a 2-year term to resolve this issue.

Jim Young is the speaker for the Nov. 13 Annual Meeting. Peter Lev suggested a contribution in Jim's honor because of his work on the lepidoptera study plus his upcoming talk at the Annual Meeting. The EC voted to donate \$300 to the Lepidoptera Club at the Natural History Society of Maryland in Jim's honor. We gave the same amount to Kathy Woods' nonprofit organization in 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev