

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2020**

Attendees: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Beth Hoker, Peter Lev, Ranger Jonathan Wood

President Kurt Davis called the meeting to order (via Zoom) at 5:29 pm.

The minutes from March 4, 2020 were approved.

Treasurer Report:

Current Assets:	48,759.13
Fixed Assets:	419,087.49
 TOTAL ASSETS:	 467,846.62
 Current Liabilities:	 79,484.00
Total Liabilities:	79,484.00
 Equity:	 388,362.62
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQ.:	 467,846.62

The above figures do include \$70,000 that has been raised from foundations and individuals for the Nature Center building and an equal payment to Baltimore County reducing our outstanding obligation to \$79,484.00.

Staff Report: Jonathan reported that how Summer Camp salaries will be funded is uncertain. If the County decides not to use General Funds, the amount needed from Gifts and Grants will be \$11,000.

All activities and events for April have been canceled because of the Coronavirus. The park remains open, but the Nature Center, playground, dog park and portapots have been closed. Park attendance has been low for a few days but was picking up on the afternoon of April 1. Jonathan expects the park to be crowded if we get a 65- or 70-degree day on the weekend.

Police were called on Friday evening, March 27 because six teenagers were disrupting the closing of the park. Staff may need backup when closing the park on busy days—Friday, Saturday, Sunday and possibly Monday.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Report: Elise said that the EHP committee met on March 11 and discussed the 2020 Nature Center Landscape Design Proposal , Phase 2 from Larry Weaner and Associates. At that meeting Carlton Sexton expressed strong support for the proposal and the committee expressed its support by an informal vote.

The full LRNC Board will need to vote on whether to approve the LWA proposal. Kurt said he didn't know when that vote could take place, because he thought the Board would need to meet in person.

Peter noted that Elise had prepared a list of questions for LWA that would clarify certain aspects of the 2020 proposal. Kurt thought that a shortened list of questions should go forward to LWA. This would show our continued interest in the project. Elise said that she would work on the questions and would consult the Guilford Garden Club.

Elise asked what LRNC could do to support Jonathan and park staff in these difficult times. We talked about whether a formal letter to LRNC members and Paw Point members about the current status of the park would help. Park staff is already publicizing changes (cancelations, closed facilities) via a monthly newsletter. Kurt said that he should be sent the April newsletter as soon as it is ready. LRNC can then get it out via Mailchimp.

Trails Report: Jeffrey said the Trails Committee could continue to work on projects in the park, using social distancing.

Fundraising: Kurt announced that LRNC had received a \$30,000 grant for the Nature Center building from the France Merrick Foundation. Kurt added that he will be looking over the comprehensive list of potential donors prepared by Jeffrey for individuals and foundations to approach. After the France-Merrick grant, we now have a good idea of how to tell our story to possible donors.

Jeffrey suggested that LRNC fundraising should emphasize that the park's 500 acres are an important outlet for the community in the current situation where businesses and schools are shut down.

Park expenses: Jeffrey questioned Jonathan about the need for \$11,000 from Gifts and Grants to cover Summer Camp expenses. For the last 2 years Summer Camp salaries have been paid from County General Funds. The year before that Lake Roland needed \$4500 from Gifts and Grants. Jonathan explained that it was still uncertain how Camp salaries would be funded, and he wanted LRNC to be prepared if a substantial amount was needed from Gifts and Grants.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.