

Lake Roland Nature Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Kurt Davis, Howdy Knipp, Jeffrey Budnitz, Jim Flannery, Ranger Jonathon Wood, Dwight Johnson, Carlton Sexton, Beth Hoker, Bill Jones, Gero Verheyen, Lydia Redding, Peter Lev

President Kurt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of May 2020 Meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of 7/13/2020

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings** 14,947.66

**Total Current Assets** 14,947.66

**Fixed Assets** 430,372.98

**TOTAL ASSETS** 445,320.64

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

**Other Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Equity** 365,836.64

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 445,320.64

**Staff Report:**

Ranger Wood reports that the park is still very busy, though a heat wave has cut usage slightly. Summer Camp was canceled, June-July programming was canceled. Pavilion rentals have started up at 50% capacity. Everyone uses Pavilions at their own risk. For changes in Pavilion use policies, see the website under "Rentals."

The Nature Center has reopened but with restrictions. Everyone must wear a mask, even to use the restrooms. A maximum of 8 people may be in the Nature Center at one time. There is one door in and one door out.

We had a donation of wood chips, piled near the playground. They will be used to mulch the gardens. Volunteers needed to work on the gardens. Note: All volunteers must fill out the volunteer form.

There are two new staff naturalists in the park. They will work mostly in the Nature Center but may also be elsewhere doing park ranger duties.

### **Committee Reports:**

Environmental and Historic Preservation—Elise Butler. No report.

Paw Point—Jeffrey Budnitz. 774 members. 4 people were warned for failure to wear masks within Paw Point.

Trails Committee—Jeffrey Budnitz. Trails has had a few work outings. Repairs are now completed on the culvert on the Woodbrook side of the park.

Recreation—Gero Verheyen. No activities planned right now. Gero is thinking about whether a Donut Run will be feasible in Fall.

Membership—Jeffrey Budnitz. 212 members.

Residents—Bill Jones. We received an email asking why a sign about the Bellona Gunpowder Company still uses the name Robert E. Lee Park, when the name was changed to Lake Roland five years ago. Jeffrey replied that this sign was made by the National Park Service, and despite requests the NPS has shown no interest in replacing it. Jonathan had a further update: Baltimore County can replace the sign. NPS will not get to it any time soon.

### **Old Business:**

Carlton Sexton reported on a few visits with other Board members to the area staked out for a trail behind the Nature Center. Starting from the Gator shed, the trail goes 60 yards toward the river. No trees or other major obstacles need to be taken out. Then the trail goes about 120 yards downstream, following an established fisherman's trail. The trail stops before reaching a wetland area. No bridges should be required.

Howdy Knipp said there are stinging nettles at the very beginning of the trail and some Japanese stilt grass later on the trail. He will cut these invasives with a weed whacker.

Kurt said there are many options for what materials to put down for the trail. He favors stone rather than wood chips.

### **New Business:**

Fundraising: Jeffrey said that park income is down because summer camp was canceled, programming was canceled, Pavilion rentals were canceled or postponed (Pavilions are now open). Of the \$20,000 in fees collected for summer camp, we refunded \$16,000, retained \$4,000 as donations/fees for "virtual camp." Staff did a great job of preparing 32 videos presenting aspects of the Lake Roland experience—we've labeled this "virtual camp." We need to keep submitting grants to make up the shortfall in park income. Kurt added that we don't currently have the funds to do certain park maintenance projects. Jonathan said that in addition to the videos, staff have completed an Animal Ambassadors booklet.

Serpentine Restoration Plan: Peter Lev sent an email to consultant Roger Latham saying that LRNC and Guilford Garden Club have now raised enough money to pay for all four phases of the Serpentine Restoration Plan. Roger was absolutely thrilled. LRNC is actually a few hundred dollars short of the funds needed but should have no problem adding that amount. Roger said that he could have Phases 2 and 3 of the project finished in a few months. Kurt asked if Roger was preparing a letter of agreement for LRNC about finishing the project with a do not exceed amount. Peter said that Roger was not focused on the letter of agreement but we could tell him what we need. Kurt and Peter will talk about this outside of the Board meeting.

Kurt announced that Elise Butler is stepping down as one of the LRNC representatives to the Working Group—now coordinating with Roger Lathan on the Serpentine Restoration Plan. LRNC will be represented by Peter Lev and Gero Verheyen.

Nominating Committee: Peter Lev is chairing the Nominating Committee for the year beginning November 2020. He has already received 5 suggestions for good people to be nominated. Among our needs: fundraisers; people who are already volunteering in the park; diversity. We will probably have some turnover on the Board, and we can (if we like) add to the total number of Board members. There are currently 16 members, and we could take that number up to 17 or 18. Peter invited all Board members to suggest people for the Board, but added that some suggestions might not be acted upon this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.