

Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting
July 1, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

Those present, via Zoom: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Peter Lev, Beth Hoker, Gero Verheyen, Ranger Jonathan Wood

Treasurer's Report:

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings 13,292.32

Total Current Assets 13,292.32

Fixed Assets 430,372.98

TOTAL ASSETS 443,665.30

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities 79,484.00

Total Current Liabilities 79,484.00

Total Liabilities 79,484.00

Equity 364,181.30

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 443,665.30

Staff Report: Jonathan said that Pavilion rentals will be open, at 50% capacity, after July 4. What to do about bathrooms for Pavilion users is problematic. Portable bathrooms are not an option, so we have to use bathrooms in the Nature Center. They will be open 9-5 except when closed for cleaning (12:30-1:30 and other times). Anyone will be able to use the Nature Center bathrooms. To enter the main room of the Nature Center people will have to answer questions related to Covid 19—the same questions that are asked at the entrance to any Baltimore County government building. Everyone must wear masks within the Nature Center. Jonathan does not have enough staff to open the Nature Center, but he will try to use interns as much as possible.

Staff is working on Fall programs, involving both virtual and in-person options. Some ideas are a Fall bird migration weekend; a Donut Run, modified for safety; wreath making, with take-home materials and online instruction; and virtual campfire cooking.

Membership: 210 members.

Environmental and Historic Preservation: Elise doesn't know when the Environmental Committee will meet or sponsor an activity. Jonathan said Weed Warriors will resume next month.

Trails: Jeffrey said the Trails committee has mainly been working on the culvert above the parking lot. Jeffrey and Kurt visited Benjamin Banneker Park to look at what repairs are needed there. Gero and Jonathan cut up and removed a tree that was blocking Lakeside Drive.

Recreation: Any events will be coordinated with Jonathan. Gero is finishing up two videos for the virtual camp material. One is about the historical manufacture of canoes, the other is a musket demo.

We have 31 videos now online, and password-protected, for campers and their families who elected to donate camp fees instead of asking for a refund. We could use these videos as a new member bonus, or we could try to monetize them.

Nature Center Landscape Design: On June 26 Kurt, Gero, Christine Corbitt and Carlton Sexton walked the area behind the Nature Center to get a sense of where a trail would be possible. The area was fairly wet after two days of thunderstorms. The group was enthusiastic about the possibilities, especially about the first hundred yards of a trail.

LRNC/Guilford Garden Club (GGC): Kurt sent some questions almost two weeks ago to GGC stemming from the Larry Weaner Landscape Associates' withdrawal from the Nature Center Landscape Design project. So far, no answer. Kurt noted that the new President of GGC, Cara Kohler, would start on July 1, and perhaps this was holding up a response.

Camp Refunds: Jeffrey said that after camps were canceled, most families opted for a refund. However, for 10-12 campers the fees were turned into a donation. Also, for another 12 campers no instruction was given about how to handle the fees. The notice announcing cancelations said that if instructions were not given by July 1, the fees would be turned into donations. The EC decided to follow through on this plan.

Operating Funds: LRNC has lost revenue because camps were canceled and there were no Pavilion rentals through June. Pavilion rentals are opening up after July 4. Jeffrey and Kurt have been looking at grants to make up the shortfall. Not much success yet. However, with Paw Point memberships up and Pavilion rentals starting, the financial picture is beginning to improve.

Board nominations: Jeffrey said the EC should start thinking about nominations now, even though elections are not until November. Peter offered to be Nominations chair for 2020-2021. Peter said we should be look for—1. People who can help with fundraising; 2. People who are already dedicated volunteers in the Park; 3. Women (currently the Board is mostly male); 4. Younger members. Jeffrey added that he would like to involve the Orthodox Jewish community and the African-American community. Both of those communities represent a meaningful level of park patronage, therefore board representation only makes sense, but prior efforts to engage those communities on a volunteer and/or board level involvement have failed.