

Lake Roland Nature Council
Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Kurt Davis, Howdy Knipp, Jeffrey Budnitz, Ranger Jonathon Wood, Christine Corbitt, Dwight Johnson, Carlton Sexton, Beth Hoker, Gero Verheyen, Peter Lev, Marc Klein, Rick North

President Kurt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 2020 Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings 39,249.61

Total Current Assets 39,249.61

Fixed Assets 430,372.98

TOTAL ASSETS 469,622.59

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities 79,484.00

Total Current Liabilities 79,484.00

Total Liabilities 79,484.00

Equity 390,138.59

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 469,622.59

Staff Report:

Jonathan reports that there are plans to run some new programs in the Fall. Weds. seems to be mainly a meeting day for Baltimore County schools, so Wednesday mdday hikes will be a way to get students and their families outdoors. Ranger Kyle Brickell has put together a kit for making plaster casts of footprints in the ground. These will be available in the Nature Center, possibly for a small fee. Gero offered to make wooden frames for the plaster casts. A canoe tour of Lake Roland is planned for the morning of Sep. 20.

If Nature Fest happens this year it will be a limited version, thanks to Covid-19. Staff has begun to label some tree species in the peninsula area.

Committee Reports:

Environmental and Historic Preservation—Elise Butler. No report.

Paw Point—Jeffrey Budnitz. 819 members plus 13 applications to be processed.

Trails Committee—Howdy Knipp has been re-blazing trails and also assessing trails for needed maintenance. Gero reported that the culvert project above the auxiliary parking lot is completed. The rocky streambed looks good and water is flowing clearly. Debris from a recent storm was quickly cleared from Lakeside Drive.

Recreation Committee—Howdy would like to see more Board members involved with programs: for example, canoe trips, hikes, campouts.

Membership—Jeffrey Budnitz. 218 members.

Residents—Bill Jones. No report.

Old Business:

Grants update: Kurt said that we have received grants from foundations and donations from individuals to make up some of the shortfall from the cancelation of summer camp and spring and summer programs. We are in much better shape than we were 6 weeks ago but are still interested in grant and other fundraising opportunities.

Serpentine Restoration Plan: LRNC signed a letter of agreement with Roger Latham for Phases 1-4 of the Serpentine Restoration Plan. The letter includes a do-not-exceed number and an estimated timeline for completion of the work.

Nominating Committee: Peter reported on forming the Nominating Committee. Peter is the Chair for 2020. Christine Corbitt and Marc Klein are at-large members. The chairs of standing committees are members. This November LRNC needs to elect a Vice President, a Treasurer and a Secretary, as well as some Board members. We have good candidates for all positions. Peter brought up the issue of how we will conduct the election. In previous years the LRNC election was held at the Annual Meeting in November, but this year there will be no in-person Annual Meeting. A couple of Board Members suggested using Survey Monkey to hold an online election.

Nature Center Landscape Design: Carlton Sexton, Ranger Lehman and one other volunteer pulled a small plot of Japanese stilt grass to see how long the plot would stay clear. Jeffrey suggested a non-toxic herbicide to clear the stilt grass. Dwight said stilt grass will come up every year for 5-7 years because of the seed bed. So mowing or any other remedy needs to be consistent for several years. Christine said that if we remove invasives we need to quickly replace them with native plants.

LRNC Photos and Videos: Jeffrey said the LRNC Photo Archive had received 967,000 views. He also suggested that Board members have a look at the LRNC Vimeo channel, especially videos with drone footage shot by Gero.

Afro Trails: Jeffrey has had a few telephone discussions with a representative from the organization Afro Trails. The goal is to increase African-American participation in LRNC and in the park.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.