

Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting
July 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

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

Kurt Davis convened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

ASSETS

Current Assts

Checking/Savings	94,144.27
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Total Current Assets	94,144.27
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Fixed Assets	442,069.29
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TOTAL ASSETS	536,213.56
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities	79,484.00
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Total Current Liabilities	79,484.00
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Total Liabilities	79,484.00
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Equity	456,729.56
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	536,213.56
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Staff Report: Jonathan said Lake Roland has two Summer Youth Employees. One is 16, one is 17. Jonathan asked for projects for them. They cannot work with power tools. Gero said they could line the trail edge behind the Nature Center with deadfall. The trail should be car width so a Gator or other vehicle could get through.

Canoe update: Canoe trips were rescheduled because of water quality. Howdy was certified to lead canoe trips. Gero and Steve Bruno should also go through canoe certification.

Staffing is very tight. Colleen Lacey has resigned. No news on when Activity Coordinators can be hired. Jonathan, John Lehman and Kyle are running things, including pavilion rentals.

Paw Point: No report.

Membership: 159.

Environmental: Peter met with Justin O'Neill of the University of Maryland re the Pollinator Study. Justin has marked 7 transects in the remediated meadow for study. They are marked

with metal spikes plus ribbons. The spikes, above ground level, could be a hazard for mowing. Justin has offered to remove them when this year's research is completed. We should definitely accept his offer. Justin anticipates that the research will go on for more than one year. He has recorded the locations of the spikes on GPS. We could help him by also recording those locations, on Jeffrey's very accurate GPS. Peter has made a rough map of the transept locations.

Peter noted that there is more Greenbrier in the meadow than last year. Perhaps because we had average or less than average rainfall in Spring, 2021. Native grasses thrived in last year's wet spring.

Historical Preservation: Howdy has been exchanging emails with the Towson University professor whose class will do research at Lake Roland this fall. According to Jonathan, she wants LRNC to sign an MOU about the proposed work. Marshy Point signed a similar MOU. Kurt Davis said that LRNC would review the MOU first. Then, if LRNC is OK with the MOU, it will be passed on to higher levels at Baltimore County Rec. and Parks.

Trails: Gero reported that two bridges were built on the Kingfisher Trail behind the Nature Center. Drainage under one of the bridges is very good. Drainage under the other bridge needs a little work. The committee now needs to start work on two nodes for the trail.

Jeffrey added that the next project would be grooming the site for the Canoe Container and a concrete pad for a Memorial Bench near the upper parking lot.

People working in brush at this time of year should be aware of the possibility of spider bites.

Old Business:

EC Changes: Steve Bruno has agreed to be a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee.

Roger Latham, BHB Adaptive Management Plan: Kurt and others expressed concern that Roger's work seems stalled by an uncooperative GIS subcontractor. Roger is still providing value to LRNC, for example by consulting about Miscanthus removal, but we would like to get the big project finished.

Blue Water Baltimore: An LRNC-BWB joint fundraiser was planned for summer 2021, then delayed at BWB's request. Kurt checked with Leanna at BWB about this fundraiser. BWB is extremely busy and the fundraiser will not happen in 2021.

New Business:

For-Profit and Non-Profit Organizations Using the Park: Jonathan expressed concern that groups, sometimes large groups, were using the park without making arrangements in advance with Park staff. He proposed that any group of more than 12 people should be required to get a permit for Park use. People trying to run businesses in the park are not welcome. Non-profit groups are welcome but must have permits. If fees are charged, a fee-sharing arrangement can be worked out. Non-profits must provide proof of non-profit status and must take out liability insurance with Baltimore County as the beneficiary.

Peter said that Baltimore Bird Club runs field trips at several Baltimore County and Baltimore City parks. The parks appreciate advance notice, but nobody asks for proof of non-profit status or insurance for a field trip. A pavilion rental for a picnic would be different. Baltimore Bird Club does have liability insurance, but Peter thinks it is for trip leaders and participants. Jonathan said he was interested in what other parks were doing.

Kurt commented that whatever policy Lake Roland decides on must be the same for all organizations using the park.

Red Trail Access: Jeffrey would like to get support from all our State Delegates re Trails Committee access to the Red Trail from Falls Rd. This is needed for trail repairs. Also, if we had access we could install Memorial Benches along the Red Trail.

Lake Draining: The lake will be partially drained (temporarily), probably in October or November, so that a below-water level valve can be repaired.

Memorial Trash Cans: Jeffrey asked if EC members were interested in fundraising for trash can installations. All agreed. Jeffrey suggested that LRNC buy a two can installation for the Nature Center. This would show potential donors that more was involved than a cheap metal can. All agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.