

**Lake Roland Nature Council Board Meeting
12/15/2021 at 6:30 PM
Meeting held via Zoom**

Meeting convened at 6:33 pm.

Board Members Present: Gero (chair), Kurt, Steve, Jeffrey, Lissa, Siobhan, Peter, Lydia, Kathryn, Bill, Marc, Rick, Carlton, Jonathan, Beth

1. Approval of previous months BOD meeting minutes

2. Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Budnitz

Dec 13, 21

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	99,908.01
Total Current Assets	99,908.01
Fixed Assets	475,390.42
TOTAL ASSETS	575,298.43

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	575,298.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	575,298.43

3. Staff Report

Jonathan Wood

- a. Pavilions will stop being accepted for 2021 on 12-17-2021 and we will start accepting rentals for 2022 on January 24th, 2022.
- b. Our new administrative aide, Judy Edwards, will start in the office on December 27th. She has experience in marketing and administrative duties and we are glad to have her join our team.
- c. Wreath making was a big success, with a total of 26 participants over 3 days. Staff give a big thank you to the volunteers who cut the vines for weed warriors and to our resident volunteer art teacher Jodi Beeler for running the 3 sessions.
- d. Friday strolls will finish for the year and will pick back up in the spring.
- e. We have some Roland Park Country school students coming in to do some gardening and/vines and hiking on the 16th.
- f. Nature Center will remain open part of the day on Christmas Eve but will remain closed Christmas Day. However, the center will be closed on New Years Eve and open New Years Day. (not following county holiday observation days because of expected increased traffic through the park.
- g. Upcoming programs:
 - i. Longest night hike – Friday evening (Full)
 - ii. Snow Story Time – Sunday Dec. 19 th 11-11:45 (half full)
 - iii. School's Out Day 9-3 (only 4 registered)

h. New Calendar being finalized this week. No First day Yoga, but we will have a free first day Hike on new years day.

4. Membership Committee Jeffrey Budnitz
We have a total to date of 2 members for this membership year. Working on the letter to go out.

5. Environmental Peter Lev
Serpentine mowing was Dec 12 and went really well. Equipment worked out nicely (battery operated trimmers). Needed five volunteers (had 4) to maintain the perimeter to keep patrons outside the work zone.

6. Historical Preservation Howdy Knipp

MOU was replaced with an access permit that all parties have executed.

Email from Kat Sterner of Towson U:

“As for timing, I’ve been discussing this with the Archaeology Club at TU. We’d like to shoot for the end of March for a GPR survey of the cemetery and detailed mapping of both the cemetery and other ruins. No specific dates yet. I’ll certainly need to come out to the site some time before then to see what materials we would need cleared to do a good job. Maybe in mid-February? Howdy, you let me know how much time you would like to get the sites cleared before we map in late March. Once I know that, we can figure out a time to meet out there and discuss what needs to be cleared prior to mapping.”

HK to meet with John Wood to plan prep work for historic sites.

7. Paw Point Siobhan and Beth
337 members since Nov 1. Last year was over 1,100, and this year may be higher based on current trajectory. Quite a few donations as well.

8. Trails Jeffrey and Gero
Update provided by email.

9. Recreation Howdy Knipp
Jonathan mentioned that he circulated bike rack ideas for input.

Gero mentioned that ideas were circulating for canoe/kayak launch improvements.

10. Old Business:
Confirmation of \$6000.00 grant from Baltimore county for Art on the Trail (Kurt)

11. New Business:
Potential trail maintenance partnership with MORE (Gero)

Gero provided an update on discussions with MORE. Gero, Howdy, and Jeffrey met with the group and invited them to make a presentation on their ideas for trail improvements and maintenance. He discussed some ideas to expand Lake Roland trails and potentially make connections to outside trail networks (i.e., Greenway, NCR Trail). Gero stressed that the LRNC goal is to benefit patrons of the park within its boundaries, not necessarily to make connections to outside areas, and that this would be a guiding principle, yet regional bike

and pedestrian connections could have value for park patrons. Jeffrey agreed and mentioned that environmental and community sensitivities will be considered and that all stakeholders and appropriate parties would be consulted. Rick asked about the impact on erosion by mountain bikers and Gero stated that he had seen fewer riders than in past years, and that Loch Raven had far more opportunities for riders. Gero also mentioned that education on responsible riding is important and that trail access and management play key roles. Jonathan stated that ranger authority allows them to detain people conducting unsafe activities, but that people on bikes can be difficult to engage. He also stated that better trails tend to facilitate more responsible riding. Gero mentioned that external connections would likely increase bike traffic in the park.