

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 5 at 5:30 PM
Meeting held Zoom**

Meeting convened at 5:35 pm.

Executive Committee Member present: Gero (chair), Jeffrey, Kurt, Beth, Carlton, Jonathan

1. Approval of prior EC Meeting minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Budnitz

Jan 4, 22

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	98,954.25
Total Current Assets	98,954.25
Fixed Assets	477,030.26
TOTAL ASSETS	575,984.51

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity 575,984.51

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 575,984.51

3. Staff Report

Jonathan Wood

The department heads will be providing a realignment in the coming days for the department. I have not heard if anything is happening within our division right now. I am assuming there will be no changes but will relay if there are any.

Our AA: Judy Edwards started her employment in our office on Dec. 27th. If you stop by say hi.

Programs calendar has been updated and posted for the Winter- upcoming programs, Schools out days in Jan and Feb. primitive fire making. We are canceling the clouds program due to a lack of registration and losing the staff member who was going to run the program to other career choices.

Some Rangers are being pulled to assist with Covid clinics/test kit handouts around the county. We might be short staffed a few days coming up.

Seasonal Naturalist Training meeting started and there is going to be a request to pay some of the speakers for training our summer camp staff. We would like to try and retain our Naturalist Evangeline (Lena) Sawyers as our Summer Camp Director. If the Council agrees, once I find out the exact dates of camp and will see how my budget for 2023 is going to look, I will come to a final request for allocations needed to be added to the Gifts and Grants

Funds to cover costs of Summer Camp. I will be discussing this with Chief Porter before the official request as well.

Master naturalist training: We are trying to fill the training courses with certified teachers from the extension. One Presenter has requested a fee of \$100. We are looking to one final person to see if they will come in and present the course for free before we confirm with a paid presenter. The group also discussed the possibility of recording the course and ways of paying for it.

4. Membership Committee Jeffrey Budnitz

The group discussed member renewals and letter follow-up.

5. Environmental

Gero discussed the serpentine mowing progress and volunteer safety requirements.

6. Historical Preservation Gero Verheyen

Jonathan stated that the Towson University team plans to come in March to conduct their research. Next week they will visit and identify areas that need to be cleared for the ground-penetrating radar. Gero indicated that having a map of the work areas would be helpful.

7. Paw Point Beth Hoker

Since December, 434 tags have been issued.

8. Trails Jeffrey and Gero

Gero summarized the update provided at the December board meeting - specifically ecosystem sensitivity and invasive plant areas in the park. Jonathan indicated that it may not work out for the St. Paul's School team to assist with miscanthus removal, and Gero stated that other schools may have an interest.

9. Recreation Gero Verheyen

10. Old Business:

Kurt stated that the Covid memorial has been approved by the County Council. Funding has been approved and an artist selected. The announcement was made at Monday's County Council meeting and the project is scheduled for completion by fall 2022.

11. New Business

Noncompliance with required board member documents (Covid waiver, conflict of interest, and background check): Jeffrey stated that all board members are currently background checked except for one that just expired, and that board member has been asked to re-apply. Jeffrey stated that background check status for all volunteers is reviewed on a weekly basis, the report is posted on weekly on Fridays. Gero indicated that it is important for the board to take an active position on noncompliance. There was discussion that the Covid waiver had not previously been a "board member requirement" but rather a volunteering

physically in the park requirement. The group discussed whether this should become a board requirement and agreed that Gero would send an email to any delinquent board members notifying them that they may be barred from participation in in-person activities if they first do not execute a Covid-19 waiver form. Gero will also send an email to any board members that may be noncompliant with the annually executed conflict of interest form and, if need be, in the future, noncompliance with background checks notifying them that their board membership would be terminated if the requirements are not met by a specified date. Currently, no board members are deficient regarding their background check renewal window.

Potential trail partnership with MORE: Gero summarized the last meeting with MORE regarding their activities, strategies in other parks, and (discussed in detail at the December board meeting). He will send an update after the next meeting on January 20.