

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 3 at 6:30 PM
Meeting held via Zoom**

Meeting convened at 6:31 pm.

Executive Committee Member present: Gero Verheyen (chair), Kurt Davis, Beth Hoker, Carlton Sexton, Jeffrey Budnitz, Steve Bruno, Rob Hart

1. Approval of prior EC Meeting minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Budnitz

Aug 3, 22

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings 181,061.40

Total Current Assets 181,061.40

Fixed Assets 477,965.26

TOTAL ASSETS 659,026.66

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity 659,026.66

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 659,026.66

3. Staff Report

Rob Hart

- a. County has a glitch in supply order system, so the LRNC may see Rob submitting office supply requests.
- b. Rob discussed a meeting whereby people requested to donate items to the park that could be checked out by patrons. Jeffrey recommended against the county accepting physical item donations on behalf of the county based on the process involved and to direct such donations to the nature council. Gero recommended against getting into the business of checking out various items such as fishing rods, which would require maintenance. Steve advised to carefully consider anything that could be a liability to the park (i.e., hiking poles that could break or be used incorrectly).
- c. Rob mentioned that more part time staff would be available soon.
- d. Mud day preparations are underway, and all purchases have been made. Rob will be out of town Friday through Tuesday, so Kyle will be POC during that time.
- e. The Blue Water Learning Day event plan draft has received feedback from Blue Water Baltimore and LRNC. Gero indicated that the partnership is between the LRNC and BWB, with support from the Park staff. As such, the LRNC and BWB will let Rob know what kind of support is needed from the staff. The group discussed questions on the approach to sponsors/donors, marketing, and the event date (October 8). Jeffrey expressed his view that the planning document Rob circulated is very strong on fundraising, but that he would like to see additional detail on event

logistic and that it seems to be a departure from how the event was initially presented to the nature council by previous Blue Water Staff, again more donor focused. Kurt raised the idea that donations could be tied to which entity the donor has a relationship to, rather than splitting the proceeds down the middle, or other methods. Gero and Carlton will discuss fundraising and other logistics offline. Gero will serve as LRNC's POC and connect with BWB.

4. Membership Committee Jeffrey Budnitz
LRNC currently has 168 members.
5. Environmental Gero Verheyen
Gero discussed the culvert project progress. Other updates were provided by email.
6. Historical Preservation Gero Verheyen
Gero discussed a highly motivated group led by Howdy that will support historic preservation activities.
7. Paw Point Beth Hoker
We currently have 1,003 members.
8. Trails Jeffrey and Gero
 - a) The Red Trail MTA step tread upgrade, an upgrade for improved walkability for patrons, continued over the weekend and we were able to complete six additional sets of steps and handrails, bringing the total to eighteen. Progress photos here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150703194@N03/albums/72157720156525570/page1> and here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150703194@N03/albums/72157720156525570/page2> . There are a total of 24 steps, so 6 remaining to complete, but some of the longer multi post hand rail sections are now complete and we are moving toward the shorter sections, more treads and shorter hand rails. Once the steps and handrails are complete, the step boxes will be back filled to raise their level with dark grey 57 stone from a quarry in Finksburg and we will then vibratory plate compact the stone into place.
 - b) Winched out a tree that flooding had placed on the Paw Point swim access platform causing a safety issue for patrons and dogs. Photo at the end of this series here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150703194@N03/albums/72157684850402684/with/52254338343/>
 - c) Howdy Update: Volunteers cleared out the vegetation in the drainage area across Lakeside Drive from Davey Tree. They also cleared out the weeds surrounding the four pawpaw trees. In addition, they cut up and removed most of the deadfall alongside Lakeside Drive. Photos at the end of this series here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150703194@N03/albums/72157700586476104/page2>
 - d) The Falls Road Red Trail parking access issue is progressing toward resolution. There will be an onsite meeting in the near future to review and comment regarding tweaks to the solution that is currently in design. Propose draft solution here [Red Trail Maintenance Access and Patron Safety Proposed Solution COMMENT DRAFT](#) As the

photos attest, the access issue will continue until the solution is implemented which is becoming more critical by the day and each storm event as the red trail has two wash outs that need to be addressed immediately. Recent parking photos of patrons ignoring the no parking signs at the end of

here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/150703194@N03/sets/72157704068138282/> In

addition, a recent medical emergency and rescue that occurred on the red trail was greatly impacted by these access issues and trail conditions putting both first responders and the medically fragile park patron in greater peril. Due to illegally parked cars, Falls Road had to be shut down to effect the rescue.

- e) The effort to rename Robert E. Lee Park in the Baltimore City and DNR inventory lists has been revived through the efforts of Senator Hettleman. The prior effort to rename the park by the city failed, that effort is outlined in our history documents section of our website here: <https://www.lakeroland.org/documents/#park-history> and the current bill here: [Baltimore City Legislation Portal Bill 22-0218](#) As you can see, it is moving with blinding speed.

9. Recreation

Steve Bruno

Gero will support the August 12 (6-8pm) canoe outing.

10. Old Business

The group discussed links and updates relative to signup genius and events on the various committee pages.

11. New Business

Lake Roland Nature Council Corporate Sponsor Recycling Station Program:
<https://www.lakeroland.org/lake-roland-corporate-sponsor-recycling-program/>