

**Lake Roland Nature Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom**

Meeting convened at 6:32 pm.

Executive Committee Member present: Gero (chair), Kurt, Bill, Beth, Matt, Steve

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1. The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Budnitz

Sep 3, 23

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	98,317.30
Total Current Assets	98,317.30
Fixed Assets	589,377.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>687,694.61</b>

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Equity 687,694.61

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 687,694.61**

3. Staff Report

Matt Hand

- We are currently waiting for the new Park Ranger I to start (beginning of the next pay period).
- We are in the process of hiring a camp director.
- The snapping turtle was released into the lake last week.

4. Membership Committee

Jeffrey Budnitz

- LRNC has 137 Members.

5. Environmental

Gero Verheyen

- Jeffrey and Gero have followed up with Roger Latham on the next deadline for results for the upcoming serpentine meeting.
- We've had many sightings of spotted lantern flies. One of the Park Rangers has experience with them and serves as the resident expert. They are expected to gather on the trees of heaven and sycamore trees, among others. We'll need to be careful with pesticides, as many patrons are sensitive to the idea of using them. Matt indicated that the rangers can check with the County and State to see if there are recommended mitigation strategies. Kurt described a strategy that some wineries are using to let them congregate on trees of heaven and other hot spots, and to apply pesticides directly.

## 6. Historical Preservation

Bill Hokemeyer

- Bill met with Howdy a couple times recently and has a working document with updated notes. There is no MOU at present. Bill will distill the key points from the document for the Director.
- Kat Sterner is out on maternity leave and the GPR data has not been fully analyzed yet.
- Gero discussed a new idea to more efficiently circulate HP information.

## 7. Paw Point

Beth Hoker

- We have 980 members currently.

## 8. Trails

Jeffrey and Gero

- There will be an outing on Saturday to build a Blue Trail bridge to the meadow.

## 9. Recreation

Steve Bruno, Matt Hand

- Saturday: PawPaw: The Wild Banana
- Sunday: Nature Quest canoe outing
- Matt discussed a yellow jacket stinging incident involving a master naturalist. Gero noted that wood and leaf piles can harbor brown recluse spiders and yellow jackets and that folks need to take caution around such locations.
- Gero discussed ideas to connect some of the trails to provide better access around the Park.
- Matt discussed summer camp attendance and school holiday programming.
- Nature Scouts is starting up on Tuesday (survival and outdoor skills).

## 10. Old Business

- Learning day: October 8 was initially chosen as the date, but the group agreed to move it to October 22. This overlaps with Nature Quest Fest and will allow more time for master naturalist projects to progress, among other activities. Matt will explore potential animal visits (i.e., raptors from other parks) and possibly a Jonathan Wood musket demonstration. Kurt is working on marketing materials.

## 11. New Business

- Beth and Gero noted that recent improvements to Falls Rd have been for the recent bike race, and that more water line work is coming soon.
- Kurt raised the idea of starting to think about the November 15 Annual Meeting – format, presentations, participation, etc. Gero raised the idea of inviting Park members to the meeting to increase participation. The group also discussed board and EC recruitment. Kurt noted that we do have a way to communicate via email with current and former Park members (~6,000 individual emails). Gero plans to invite frequent volunteers to consider board membership, and indicated that we need to start working to identify future board leaders. The notice must go out ten days in advance of the meeting (November 15).