

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017 at 6:30 PM
Lake Roland Nature Center**

Welcome and Introductions: Elise Butler called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Elise informed the group of Larry Zeafra's resignation from the Nature Council. Elise asked everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves. Elise announced that Kurt Davis has agreed to become the president and serve out the remainder of Larry Zeafra's term and read Section 5(a) of the By-laws – Election/Vacancies. Elise asked for a motion and Bill Jones moved that Kurt Davis fill out the remainder of the term of President. The motion was seconded and it was unanimously approved. Kurt Davis introduced himself and spoke about his past involvement with the park and Nature Council including Paw Point and Art on the Trail. Kurt said he is retired and volunteers at Maryland Horse Rescue.

January 2017 Meeting Minutes: The January 18, 2017 Board Meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Jeffrey Budnitz reported the following:

- Cash position: \$23,958.09
 - General funds: \$16,320.74
 - Reserved funds: \$7,637.35 (for Education Building)
- Hard Assets: \$217,485.98
- Total Assets: \$241,444.07
- Liability with Baltimore County: \$240,000
- Net Asset Value: \$1,444.07

Rec & Parks Staff Report: Ranger Shannon Davis reported the following:

- The Bird Extravaganza is this weekend which coincides with the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Getting ready for maple sugaring the first week of March
- Serpentine Restoration Project will take place on the 25th and 26th of this month.
- Baltimore County Property Management is almost done with the upper parking lot sign and the gates remain.
- Interviewed for 6 Master Naturalist Candidates
- Attended the Maryland Association of Outdoor Educators Conference held at the Towson Sheraton on February 2nd – 5th

Design Framework Committee (Environmental & Master Plan): Elise Butler provided the following updates:

Consultants Plan – Consultants have been engaged to design a teaching landscape garden area of almost 5 acres. They expect to have a final design concept to present at a future Board meeting. Kay McConnell stated that from the Guildford Garden Club perspective, it has been going really well.

Native Plant Sale – The 4th Annual Native Plant Sale is being held the day before Mother's Day.

Serpentine Restoration Program – Elise Butler reported that she is working with a student from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute who is putting together a team of students to clean out the serpentine area on February 25th and 26th. There will be two 4 hour shifts and a pizza lunch will be served. A flyer will be sent out to the Board.

Paw Point Committee: Beth Hoker reported they have received 491 new and renewal applications to date.

Trails Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported:

- Trail work is going well.
- Dwight Johnson has donated 84,000 pounds of serpentine rock and it has been put in place.
- Marc Klein replaced the wood for the bridge at the end of the red trail.

Recreation Committee: Gero Verheyen reported that the trail run was cancelled due to weather and the next runs will be on April 9th and October 15th.

Membership Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that 95 members have renewed their memberships to date.

Residents Committee: No report

Membership Committee: Jeffrey Budnitz reported that 249 letters and renewal applications have been mailed.

Outreach Committee: Nancy Horst reported that she has completed an article on native plants and the native plant sale.

New Business

Village of Lake Roland – Kurt Davis stated that the Nature Council's mission/focus and partnership with Baltimore county is within the confines of the park and for issues that occur outside of the park boundaries that may affect the park is the responsibility of our partner, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks. Kurt said he will ask the developers of the Village of Lake Roland to present its plans at the April Board meeting for informational purposes only. A discussion ensued concerning the project and Robert Macht and Richard North questioned the Nature Council's position on the project. Jeffrey Budnitz explained that the Residents Committee addresses issues that project out into the community from the park but not outside the park in.

President Kurt Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

In attendance:

Jeffrey Budnitz

Elise Butler

Christine Corbitt

Kurt Davis

Beth Hoker

Nancy Horst

Dwight Johnson

Bill Jones

Marc Klein

Roger McMacken

Rick North

Merritt Pridgeon

Lydia Redding

Gero Verheyen

Jim Flannery

Shannon Davis

Kay McConnell

Robert Macht

Minutes prepared by
Jim Flannery