

## August Member Meeting Communication (in lieu of in person meeting)

1. Virtual Election held, June 2020. Welcomes to Susan Hill, Treasurer, and to Lynn Leonard, Secretary.

Both are working very hard to learn the ins and outs of the non profit and processes for working more virtually than ever!

2. A tremendous Thank You to:

Peggy Berg - Treasurer,  
Valerie Morvan - Communications &  
Julie Bakken - Membership

Who have all recently stepped down from Board and/or Chair Roles, but are staying present in the community and continuing to volunteer. Their expertise propelled the Conservancy to new levels, and we're glad they are staying close at hand.

3. A huge welcome to a few folk who are stepping up to take on key LCFC Chair Roles:

Jane Donofrio - Membership / Blog  
Karen Maloney - Communications  
Laura Neely Lanio - Online Auction, Fall 2020

4. Covid-19 Volunteer Program: This one-of-a-kind program is on hiatus, with much gratitude from Dekalb County, and with special thanks to Karen Maloney for so much labor and communication, and to Tamara Dillard, LCFC President and Volunteer Chair for the mini URL and tracking of hours. Additionally, thank you to all the Volunteer Team Captains for leading volunteers and ensuring safe practices. This program was designed jointly by Dekalb County staff and LCFC volunteers, to keep staff as healthy as possible, and the horses well cared for, while owners were restricted from visiting. It worked! Thanks to all who helped, cooperated with or otherwise supported these efforts. Check out the April hours total below! (*Did you know tracking volunteer hours helps with LCFC grant applications and funding?*)

### VOLUNTEER HOURS SUMMARY

Volunteer Activity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Grand Total
Community Service Workers	1							1
Environmental	6	8.3	17	10.5				41.8
Facility / Landscaping	33.5	109.75	3	1		15	5	167.25
LCFC Administrative	90	87.2	108	86	58	65	63	557.2
Operations / Horse Care	20	15.1	182.25	502.25	51.2	171.5	120.5	1062.8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>150.5</b>	<b>220.35</b>	<b>310.25</b>	<b>599.75</b>	<b>109.2</b>	<b>251.5</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>1830.05</b>

5. General Volunteer Program: Plans are in the works to start some small, physically distant projects, like collecting limbs out of pastures. The Conservancy is also considering ways to restart its Volunteer Info sessions safely. *Exciting recent development!* Hands on Atlanta has approached the County and LCFC about a possible project around the first weekend of October - LCFC will apply on behalf of the Park to become one of the Corporate Workday Sites. If accepted, plans for projects will be finalized and volunteer captains needed to supervise them. More to come on this!

6. Events for 2020: An Online Auction, a virtual version of our largest fundraiser “Horsefest”, is planned for the first weekend of October. Funds raised will go toward the Community Access & Safety capital improvement project (*for specifics, see below*).
- Thanks to the Marketing and Communications expertise of Laura Neely Lanio (Auction Chair), and to Ramsay Horn for additional marketing assistance.
  - **Right now, we’re asking for help in securing items and sponsors for the Auction.** IF you have an item, or know of a good source or sponsor, please email [vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org).
  - Auction vendor for software (Auctria) is secured, some donations are already in, the Sponsor letter is ready to go - know somewhere you could ask? [Download the Request for Donations letter HERE.](#)
  - Next phases include: marketing the Auction on Social Media to the public, and searching for approximately 15 volunteers to help with picking up and logging donated items in September! *Interested in helping? Email [vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org).*

*Please support this important fundraiser for Little Creek Horse Farm & Park in any way you can!*

7. 2020 LCF Conservancy Goals:

- *Structure / Infrastructure of the Conservancy*
  - i. Already accomplished: Technology updates everywhere!
    1. Online Quickbooks is set up for finances
    2. New look & functionality to the website on Wordpress platform
    3. G-suite set up & new email addresses for Board and Committees to use (increased security & easy access for remote work), dedicated file storage, conference call ability, and other features.
  - ii. In process: Formalizing & documenting processes, in programs and administration to make volunteering - whether on a one time project, committee work, or for directors - more seamless, effective and enjoyable.
- *LCFC Horse Park Blog* - A new communication method is being introduced by Jane Donofrio that will highlight the activity, changes and exciting news happening around the park. [Visit the first Horse Park Blog entry today!](#)
- *Community Access Safety/Security Access Project:* The Conservancy is committing funds to complete projects, however, LCFC is working on matching funds by applying for the [Park Pride Community Building Grant](#) (up to \$50,000). The application is due in 2020; if awarded, money will be received by January 2021. Some work may begin sooner if possible.

Planned improvements include:

1. fire/security equipment & security gates, and
2. New & improved Directional Signage to number gates, and direct visitors and vendors safely (Wayfinding service is included and a signage survey is complete, delineating needs such as; Directional, External Park Signage, Caution and Safety Signs)

3. A welcome center and work space for LCF Conservancy volunteers,
  4. Design work for drainage and accessibility at the back (Pasture side) of the barn, and
  5. An ADA ramp to the grass arena annex on Orion Drive.
8. *Getting to know your Conservancy*: Constant communication with the County is an important role of the Conservancy, to find synergies and partnering opportunities that maximize volunteer hours, fundraising efforts and prioritization of capital improvements. LCFC representatives, Tamara Dillard and Rene Iverson met with County reps, David Flaherty (Division Manager), Jamie Hodges (Barn Supervisor) and Cindy Womack (Assistant Supervisor), to review the history of LCFC and the possible goals & dreams for 2020 and beyond. So many volunteers have given their talent and time over the years to the Park; everyone who visits, donates to, and/or enjoys Little Creek Horse Farm & Park thanks each and every volunteer.
9. *Check out a new* online [LCFC History & Tribute](#) to highlight and honor the Founders, LCFC Presidents and Vice-Presidents who served and led volunteers to make this park a reality. The amount of time, dedication and passion from these people is amazing and their efforts astounding! LCFC is researching past minutes to document anyone that served on the Board - Please let us know of any LCFC Board names that should be added to the history page.
10. The Conservancy is excited to announce that after over 15 years of providing stewardship of the park, community programs and support to Dekalb County, an official 2020 [Letter of Understanding \(LOU\)](#) is in place between Little Creek Farm Conservancy and Dekalb County. This LOU brings focus and prioritization to the LCFC mission to serve the park, the horses and the community.
11. [LCFC July 2020 Financials Statement](#). The Conservancy is always working toward the next capital improvement. Grants (like the Community Access & Safety project above) require matching funds. Thank you for all you've done to put the Conservancy in a strong position....and please... Don't stop helping!
12. *Hands on Horses*: This program was suspended due to the shutdown. Plans are forming to re-open this program soon, with modifications for safe distancing, as we have over 90 folks on the waitlist....this is a great place to share and we can't wait to get back to it!
13. **Some County project updates:**
- County update: the paddocks remodel is complete, resulting in safer fencing, larger and fewer paddocks, and some subdividing of the pasture areas closest to the barn. *Hands on Atlanta volunteers may arrive in October to paint the fencing to match the arena. More Info coming soon...*
  - County update: the County's proposed Bridge project (to ease safe access from the barn to the "back gelding" pasture) is a work in process. Volunteer Bill Ellis is in the application stage and we appreciate everything he is doing!
  - County update: Cindy Womack, Assistant Barn Manager, has been hard at work and jumping in with both feet. Welcome, Cindy!

- County update: Soon you may see horses turned out in the pastures in safe, break-away halters. This will increase the staff's efficiency of turn out and bring in, make harder to catch horses a little easier to approach, and cut down on lost, missing, or poorly fitting halters (safety issue!).  
Finally, we miss seeing all of your faces at Meetings. Hope to be back to "in person" very soon.

There are probably things we forgot to mention, or may not have had room to fully explain, in this quick update. Please, visit the website, our FB page, the new Blog (to read about how the Audubon project is going strong, for example!), or reach out to any of us with questions or ideas at any time. Thanks for helping us keep the Neigh in the Neighborhood!