

Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors  
August 21, 2008

**Board Members In Attendance:** Pastor Michael Wollman, Eileen Christopherson, Stan Buchanan, Pastor Leila Haight, JoDeen Forsyth, Don Moats, Dale Kringle, Brenda Thalacker, and Steve Kolden

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:** Sherm Toufar

**Members Absent:** Amanda Rasner Pastor Jim Page, and Pastor John Ashland

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Mary Toufar

**Guest:** Dick Sayther of GSB was present for part of the meeting

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by our board president, Pastor Michael Wollman.

**Devotions:** Pastor Mike gave devotions based on Matthew 16. We can be Rocks or we can be Blocks in the mission of the church. Devotions ended with prayer.

**Dick Sayther**, our consultant from Gronlund Sayther Brunkow outlined the end of the year plan that he and Sherm have set up. Our budget shortfall to date is approximately \$25,000 and we have four months to go. Our goal is to raise at least \$80,000 by the end of December. Sherm's one on one visits are going to be a key factor and his job will be 100% Development during this time.

The year end plan consists of several strategies:

1. Sherm will visit six to eight people per week to promote The Way Club, Towering Pines Club, and planned giving. Dianna will be asked to set up and schedule his appointments.
2. Board members and interested individuals will be encouraged to host gatherings where Sherm can give a presentation to five to ten people.
3. Direct mailings will continue.
4. The Legacy League will be introduced Luther Park supporter to the option of including Luther Park in their estate plans. A preview copy of the Legacy League brochure was reviewed by board members and is now ready to be sent to the printer.

**Minutes and approval:** The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. Don Moats moved to accept the June minutes as printed and Brenda Thalacker made the second. **Motion** passed.

### **Directors' Reports**

**Mary Toufar** was not at the meeting, but the report she e-mailed to all board members earlier in the week was reviewed briefly. The total number of campers for the 2008 summer was 1016 compared to 1149 in 2007, and 1082 in 2006. We need to beef up our marketing plan and we especially need to sell the Luther Woods experience.

**Sherm Toufar's** written report was handed out at the meeting. The golf outing in June had 61 golfers and a profit of \$8710. The auction on Aug. 10, brought in approximately \$26,854, with some transactions not yet complete. This figure includes \$2000 from Thrivent which, to date, has not been received. Gas prices have hit camp hard causing everything we purchase to

increase in price. We have 331 supporters in the 2008 Way Club, which is less than the number we usually have at this time of year. We have 16 members in the Towering Pines Club.

**"Every Congregation" outreach report:** The Sunday congregational visits continue. Pastor Mike has preached in 19 congregations, Sherm in 24, and Mary in 3. At least 210 donations have been made that we know are a result of the Sunday outreach, for a total of \$12,143.35.

## **Committee Reports**

**Program-**There was no report from this committee because they have not met.

**Property-**Don Moats reported that several maintenance projects have come in below budget. With the help of good volunteers and wise choices, cabin shingles, pool filter, and the Luther Woods shelter improvements came to \$14,970 compared to the \$25,200 budgeted for these. A decision needs to be made about the barn on the farm. It is not being used for anything but storage at present and it is in need of repair. Is it worth repairing and if it was repaired, what would we use it for? The committee also sees a need to establish some rental fees for individuals storing boats and other things at the farm during the winter months. Sherm said that the Managed Forest Law program renewal is in progress and we are receiving information from the plan writers. Pastor Mike told us that a group of men from Central in Chippewa is planning to do a day of volunteer work at Luther Park every spring and fall.

**Finance-**Printed summaries of the July 31, Income/Expense Report were passed out. Brenda Thalacker went over the main points of the report. We have more negative numbers than we should at this time of the year. We have been keeping our expenses down, but our income is not where it should be. We are holding July checks and our net income from operation is -\$71,148.68. There was a question about the figures for the golf outing being different than what Sherm gave in his report. Sherm made a note to check on the figures to insure that we have the correct numbers. Stan passed out a graph showing his best estimated annual fund income projection for the rest of 2008 and it is not looking good. Pastor Mike said that the board will have to make some tough decisions in October, if finances don't improve before that.

**Contingency Team Report-**Steve reported for the group, which consists of board members, Brenda, Mike, Steve, and Sherm and also Jim Wischnewski who has past experience in helping a YMCA get out of debt. The team has had two meetings to gather information and set some goals. Their next meeting will be Sept. 4, when they will work through ways to reduce expenses and increase income. The goal is to have a list of options for the board to consider at the October meeting, if we still are not meeting our expenses at that time.

## **Old Business**

**Board schedule for regular meetings-**At past meetings, we have considered the idea of meeting less often than monthly, but the general feeling now is that we need to meet every month

until we are in the black.

**New Business:**

**Next Regular Board Meeting--** Our next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at Hope Lutheran Church on Eddy Lane in Eau Claire. Committees will meet at 6:15 P.M. and the full board at 7:00. Pastor Lee will give devotions. Stan will provide snacks if not working and Pastor Mike will be the snack backup.

**Thrivent Grant for Environment-**Don asked for an update on an environmental grant that had been mentioned earlier in the year. Sherm said he'd try to find out if we have received any Thrivent funding for this. (See minutes for March 29, 2008)

**Kwik Trip Rewards program-**The question was asked, "Have 5 people asked to have Luther Park receive the rewards from their Kwik Trip Credit Cards?" No one was sure. We need to encourage Luther Park friends to do this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The executive committee met after the meeting to discuss staffing needs. A date was set to begin Staff Evaluations. An agenda item for the next meeting will be the status of the "temporary" office position held by Becca.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary