

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors
September 18, 2008 at Hope Lutheran Church, Eau Claire**

Board Members In Attendance: Pastor Michael Wollman, Eileen Christopherson, Stan Buchanan, Pastor Leila Haight, JoDeen Forsyth, Don Moats, Dale Kringle, Brenda Thalacker, Amanda Rasner (left at 8:30), Steve Kolden, and Pastor Jim Page (arrived at 7:25).

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Sherm Toufar, Mary Toufar

Members Absent: Pastor John Ashland

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by our board president, Pastor Michael Wollman.

Devotions: Pr Lee gave devotions based on Psalms 5:11 and Hebrews 2. Our Luther Park mission is to bring young people to the Lord. We must trust in the Lord and not despair—even when our budget is not met. Devotions ended with prayer.

Minutes and approval: The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed. Pr Mike made a correction to the August minutes. Under the Property Committee Report, the statement about volunteers from Central in Chippewa should read “group of people,” and not group of men. Brenda Thalacker moved to accept the August 2008 minutes as corrected and Don Moats made the second. **Motion** passed.

Directors' Reports

Mary Toufar handed out written copies of her report. She reiterated that the pastors attending the Dairyland Conference Pastors Meeting at Luther Park today, expressed a need for the church to reclaim our youth and many pastors thanked Luther Park for its part in doing that. Mary is thankful that the ministry happens even when the financial income doesn't.

Sherm Toufar's written report was e-mailed to board members earlier in the week and was reviewed at the meeting.

“Every Congregation” outreach report: The Sunday congregational visits continue. Pastor Mike has preached in 22 congregations. First Lutheran in Stone Lake welcomed Pastor Mike with a full house which was very enjoyable. Pastor Mike has a few double booked Sundays, and he will be asking Pastor Lee to help. ,Sherm has been to 29 congregations and one sobriety retreat, to tell about Luther Park's mission and needs. Brenda asked Sherm to e-mail the board members with an update on the amount of new money known to be a result of the Every Congregation Outreach.

Committee Reports

Program—Amanda Rasner reported that the committee has looked at the cost of VBS and was ready to present an increase proposal to the board tonight, so the information can get out to congregations for the start of VBS registration on December 1. Amanda made a **motion** to increase the minimum VBS fee for 3 camp staff, to \$1100 per week. The second was made by Stan. Discussion followed that the 2008 minimum was \$1060 and that the new base fee would be less than a 4% increase. **Motion passed.**

A question was asked about the registrations for the first Recharge in early October. Mary answered that 40 are now registered, but more are expected by the deadline. There is room for 110 at a recharge.

Property—Don Moats reported for the property committee. The dining hall needs a few repairs on the siding and that will be taken care of very soon. A few groups of volunteers will be coming in the next couple weeks to help with projects at camp. Plans are already being made for volunteers to shingle more cabins next May and Pastor Mike Vetch and his brothers are considering that they may be able to shingle the Welcome Center. The grease trap in the kitchen will be replaced this winter.

Finance—Printed summaries of the August 31, Income/Expense Report were passed out. Stan Buchanan went over the main points of the report. Our debt reduction is being met, but the annual fund income is falling more behind again this month. We are holding checks amounting to \$44,600 and some of them are from late July. We took some new loans to cover property and liability insurance. We are two checks behind in paying employee

insurance. A **motion** was made by Steve Kolden and seconded by Don Moats to accept the financial report and place it on file. **Motion passed.**

Contingency Team Report—Steve Kolden reported that the contingency team has completed its mission and he handed out a written report. The team put a conservative estimate of the value of Luther Park/Luther Woods at \$4,750,000. There are 67,000 “owners” from 134 congregations. The report lists options under three headings—Increased Revenue, Debt Reduction, and Reduced Expenses, for the full board to consider in the event that financial gifts do not match or exceed the 2008 fiscal budget.

Old Business

Directors’ Evaluations—The president reported that the evaluation of the directors is in progress and the evaluation committee will be meeting for the second time on Sept. 26.

Pastor Mike shared that he has started a personal challenge to find a good volunteer to head up a Luther Park phone-a-thon with the goal of getting 2000 new givers.

Pastor Mike and Sherm shared a letter that they are working on to be sent out to member church councils, asking them to make a commitment to support Luther Park and to send back a response with a dollar amount so that we can use that information in forming our camp budget. Several suggestions were discussed. Board members want their names listed on the letter with that of Sherm and Pastor Mike. The letter should be mailed as soon as possible because some churches are already working on their 2009 budgets.

New Business:

Linda Reinholdt, request for extended sick days

The board reviewed Article VII, Section 7, part b, of the Luther Park Personnel Policy, which allows the board to grant partially paid short term disability, sick, or accident leave to full-time employees, under extenuating circumstances, for up to six months.

Linda has had surgery and has used all of her sick leave as of September 8. She has also used three vacation days and has been paid through September 11.

Steve Kolden made a **motion** to grant partial pay sick leave to Linda Reinholdt as allowed in the Personnel Policy, Article VII, Section 7B. Dale Kringle made the second. Discussion followed—Linda has a doctor’s appointment on Sept. 26, when she may get an estimate of the expected length of recovery. She has used all banked sick days. She has been granted short term pay leave for a previous illness. Our financial situation makes this a hard decision.

Steve called for a vote on the motion. The **motion failed** with one member abstaining.

Steve Kolden made a **motion** that the board give Sherm the authority to grant Linda Reinholdt (if requested) an unpaid Leave of Absence according to Article IX, Section 1 of the Luther Park Personnel Policy. The motion was seconded by Don Moats. **Motion passed.**

Next Regular Board Meeting-- Our next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, **October 16, 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. Mary will give devotions. Pastor Mike will provide snacks. It was noted that the remaining meetings of the year will be November, 20 and December 18.

Other Business:

JoDeen asked for follow up on 2 questions from the August minutes—the correct figure for the golf outing profit, and the status of the Environmental Grant from Thrivent.

Sherm reported that the correct figure for the golf outing was in the financial report and not in his report.

Mary reported that there was not any Thrivent Grant for Environment. We had inquired about such a grant, but there was nothing available to Luther Park.

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

Respectfully submitted,
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary