

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors
November 20, 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, Steve Kolden, Pastor Jim Page and Pastor John Ashland.

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

Members Absent: 0

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by our board president, Pastor Michael Wollman.

Devotions: Pastor Lee led the group in devotions using James 4:13-17. Luther Park was founded on faith and not much else. We need to seek God's will in how we care for Luther Park now. Devotions ended with prayer.

Minutes and approval: The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Pastor John asked why the board went into a closed session and some of the details are not included in the minutes? Pastor Mike answered that it was a judgment call to guard confidentiality and confidence. Mary asked for two corrections in the section on the **Report and Recommendations of the Personnel Committee, following the annual Performance Evaluations of Sherm and Mary.** In the first paragraph, the second to the last sentence will be changed to read, "Sherm (not the directors) presented a proposal to the committee at the meeting on October 7." In the last paragraph of the same section, the second sentence will be changed to read, "The changes were listed for Sherm (not directors)."

Stan **moved** to accept the October 2008 minutes as corrected and Don made the second. **Motion** passed.

Directors' Reports

Written reports from Mary and Sherm were e-mailed earlier and copies were available at the meeting.

Mary spoke to the value of attending the Outdoor Ministries National Meeting. It is a rewarding and enlightening experience to meet with others who also work in camping ministries. She answered, "Yes." when the president asked if other camps are also operating under stress. Mary helped coordinate this national conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, which was attended by members of both the ELCA Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association.

Sherm addressed the details of the **\$200,000 Matching Gift Challenge** that he has been working on with the donors, for the past month. The grant as Sherm presented it, is as follows:

\$200,000 Matching Gift Challenge

Dollar Amount--\$200,000

- \$150,000 for debt reduction and /or capital projects
- \$50,000 for endowment fund to be used for camperships.

Timeline: October 2008-December 31, 2009

Types of gifts that may be matched:

1. Gifts must be at a Towering Pines level, \$1000+ with no upper limit.
2. Gifts must be specified for debt reduction, capital projects, or camperships.
3. Gifts must be from individuals, not groups such as W-ELCA or clusters pooling monies together.
4. Gifts must be new gifts. Gifts given prior to October 2008 will not be matched.
5. Gifts will be matched once \$1000+ level is reached provided that matching funds are still available at that time.
6. Gift matches will occur on a quarterly basis with the first matching payment being at the end of 2008.
7. Donors providing matching funds wish to remain anonymous at this time.

Discussion followed pointing out the value of this generous gift in helping Luther Park to a brighter future, but also to the fact that it will not add money to the annual operational budget.

Committee Reports

Program--Amanda reported that the committee discussed camper safety issues and decided that while we have adequate measures in place, a few safety procedures could be strengthened or given added emphasis.

Property—Don Moats reported for the property committee. A few minor repairs have been made around camp. Future firewood has been cut. An estimate to replace the carpet in Covenant Center came in at \$8600. It will be put on hold.

Finance—Printed summaries of the Income/Expense Report were shared. Brenda went over the main points of the report dated October 30, 2008. Our income is still short and we are presently holding checks worth \$52,000. Don told the board that he has been informed by some camp employees, that they have received letters from the health insurance company threatening cancellation. They are concerned and may be losing confidence in the leadership of Luther Park. Sherm answered that he received the letter also and has called the pension office to make arrangements for payment by the end of the year. He thought that all staff was aware of this, but will make sure that they know that their health insurance will remain in force.

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

Pastor John reminded us that the entire financial situation is not all up to Sherm to fix. We all need to help encourage all our member churches to pray for Luther Park and to step up and give their financial share. Pastor Lee added that Luther Park isn't just real estate, but rather that Luther Park exists for God's glory.

Every Congregation Outreach—Pastor Mike reported that he has preached Luther Park's mission to 30 congregations, but he will conclude his part in this outreach at the end of this month because of personal circumstances. He has canceled the rest of the Sundays he had scheduled and has asked churches to contact Pastor Lee, Sherm, or Mary. He also offered to provide board members with a script, if wanted, so we could help finish the every congregation outreach mission.

Old Business

Revision to the accepted proposal regarding Sherm's October goal.

Pastor Mike asked for a motion to accept the \$200,000 challenge grant, as meeting the spirit of the October goal asked for in the agreement proposed by Sherm and passed last month, between Sherm and the board.

Steve made the **motion** and Dale seconded it.

Stan moved to **amend the motion** to read, The October goal will be reduced to the amount that has actually been raised (\$36,468) but the November and December goals will remain at \$120,000 each, as proposed by Sherm in his proposal to the board. The new year end total will be \$276,468. The amendment was seconded by Don.

The **amendment passed** with one abstention. The **Motion as amended passed** with one nay vote.

Sherm asked that the record should show that he did not ask or encourage anyone to make a motion to alter his goals.

New Business:

The next meeting will be a supper meeting at Eileen's home at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 18. Maps and directions were handed out. Spouses are welcome, but let Eileen know in advance (715-879-5109 or ejceme@yahoo.com). Bring your suit if you want to use the hot tub.

Pastor John and Sherm shared a couple stories showing that things are happening and the Holy Spirit is working. The Holy Spirit's timing is not the same as ours. We need to be patient.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. with a motion by Don and second by Stan, and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary