

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting  
August 20, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran, Eau Claire**

**Board Members In Attendance:** Pastor Leila (Lee) Haight, Brenda Thalacker, Don Moats, Amanda Rasner, Steve Kolden, Eileen Christopherson, JoDeen Forsyth, Pastor Michael Wollman, Bill Jenson, Dale Kringle, and Pastor John Ashland.

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

**Members Absent:** Pastor Jim Page **Ex-Officio Members absent:** Mary Toufar

**Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order by board president, Steve Kolden, at 7:10 pm. following committee meetings.

**Devotions:**

Amanda led the devotions reading from Matthew 8 about the storm that Jesus calmed. Jesus will also calm our storms when the time is right. Devotions closed with prayer.

**Minutes and Approval:**

There was one correction to the July 16 minutes. Under the Financial Report heading, the end of the second paragraph is missing the word "reduction" and should read, "A Motion was made by Don, seconded by Mike to add \$7000 to our budget reduction by not replacing the Welcome Center roof during the 2009 fiscal year. Carried."

There was a **Motion** by Don, second by Brenda to accept the July 16 minutes as corrected. **Carried.**

**Board Bylaws / Policy Review-- Task group to review personnel policies for Annual meeting**

Mike and Brenda volunteered to review our bylaws and personnel policies and report back to the board.

**Directors' Reports:**

**Sherm** has checked on the status of Mary's health insurance and found that Mary will automatically be included on his family policy from October 1 until the end of December. The total premium for Sherm and Mary together will decrease by \$278.14 per month because Mary will receive medical only, and Sherm will continue medical, disability, and pension.

**Mary's** report was e-mailed to board members yesterday.

**Committee Reports--**

**Financial Report:**

Brenda reviewed the financial report summary for July 31, showing a Year-To-Date total income of \$528,573.75, and total expenses of \$555,094.71 for a gross year-to-date income of minus \$26,475.96. Total debt at the end of July was \$567,742.76. As of August 20, checks being held total \$72,488.90 and the checking account balance is minus \$13,764.36. **Motion** was made by Don, seconded by Mike to accept the financial report as printed. **Carried.**

**Auction Summary:** Sherm handed out a financial summary of the 2009 Auction held August 9, showing a profit of \$17,146. This is less than other years but the auctioneer indicated that it was consistent with what is happening at all auctions this year. The best price for a quilt this year was \$350, compared to a top price of over \$1000 in the past.

**Mailbox and check printer updates:** The price of a locked mailbox as discussed in July was found it to be quite high. It was decided that a better solution is to purchase and install a regular rural mailbox and request the postal service to hold Luther Park's Saturday mail, eliminating the need for a locked box. Sherm was asked to contact the post office to ask if they would allow the box to be placed on the circular driveway close to the Welcome Center.

**Consider additional Revisions to the 2009 Budget:** We will focus on increasing income through the end of the year. Another appeal letter is scheduled to be sent out the end of August or early September. Sherm noted that some donors have indicated a reluctance to giving money right now because they are uncomfortable about the uncertainty of the camp's future.

**Revisions to 2nd quarter financial report needed?** No changes are needed. The questions were a result of a couple invoices being turned in late to Sherm.

A **Motion** was made by Brenda, with a second from Don to a change the authorized check signers for Luther Park from Dave Dobbs, Linda Reinolt, Stan Buchanan, and Sherm Toufar to Dave Dobbs, Linda Reinolt, Mike Wollman, and Brenda Thalacker. **Carried.**

**Property Committee Report:**

Don reported that since our July meeting there have been some unexpected property breakdowns. The pool pump motor and starter motor, and the Welcome Center exhaust fan were repaired at a cost of \$1870.

Dave is spending a lot of his time doing housekeeping chores because of our housekeeper vacancy. During the summer season, the PALS and counselors helped, but now it all falls to Dave, who is also trying to cover Doug's duties while he is out for surgery. Lee suggested the need to organize some volunteer help.

**Program Committee Report:**

Amanda said plans for the Recharges are progressing. The committee has some more questions that will be e-mailed to Mary and Becca. The recharge fees will not be increased.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **Replicating the Conference Pastor's Meeting –Planning (Steve & Jim)**

Possible areas being considered for these information gathering meetings are Hayward, Mondovi, and Ettrick.

### **NW Synod Office relocation – Contract copies – FYI (Steve)**

The last meeting resulted in some changes to the synod relocation plan. The new NW Synod office will be located in the Welcome Center basement and remodeling has begun. The contract will note that the synod will share use of the upstairs conference room to accommodate for handicap accessibility. The monthly rental fee will include utilities. The remodeling is estimated to cost about \$13,000 with volunteer labor and the synod has donated some money toward the project. The remodeling should be done by early October and the synod will move in by the end of the month.

### **“Challenge” from July meeting**

*The president charged each board member with the assignment to think about what we, as individuals can do to increase Luther Park's revenue.*

Some of the ideas included:

Amanda and Jim—a run/walk fund raiser

Mike—a polar plunge for board members at the annual meeting

Steve—donate time to work projects, speak at churches, Denim Sunday

Brenda—request churches to consider donations from special funds

### **Recharge Updates (Amanda)**

The theme and recharge dates are now posted on the Luther Park website. A number of volunteers have come forward. We still need some weekend coordinators to insure everything runs smoothly.

## **New Business:**

### **Public Communication – Use of Message Board and Loop—**

#### **Use of the Luther Park Website – Message Board & Keeping site current**

The president asked the secretary to help with collecting, circulating, and posting questions and answers to the “Ask the Board” page on the Luther Park website, and to help with content for the “In the Loop” e-mail communications.

### **Potential of scheduling “listening sessions” ?**

Steve asked members if we want to schedule some “listening sessions” in several different locations among our member congregations. These could take place in the near future to answer some immediate questions that churches and individuals may have. Even if 25 churches request a special meeting, the earliest we could call such a meeting would be mid October. The president will send out an e-mail asking board members for more discussion on this.

### **Special Corporation Meeting-**

Steve shared the list of churches that are requesting a special meeting of the corporation. As of today, he has 7 requests.

### **Recharge Costs—**

The program committee has decided that the Recharge fee should remain at \$60.

### **Board Meeting with Summer Staff-**

In late July, several board members met with those summer staff members interested in talking to the board. A summary was e-mailed to board members.

### **Additional Board meeting with Year Round staff (Steve)—**

Steve and Amanda recently met with the year round staff to answer their questions. Steve suggested that we may want to arrange some training for people interested in being weekend retreat hosts.

### **Approve waiver of rental fees for Staff/Alumni Retreat, October 23,24—**

Steve was contacted by a former counselor planning a staff reunion/Toufar Thank you Celebration in October. Steve offered free use of the camp to that group and hoped that this is agreeable to the rest of the board. Don made a **Motion** to waive all facility rental fees for the October alumni celebration. Seconded by Mike. **Carried.**

### **Meeting with Sherm & Mary at their request—Dale and John requested, sometime after August 15**

This offer is still open to the Toufars.

## **Closed Session:**

Sherm left the meeting at approximately 8:40 and the board went into closed session.

**Reconvene in Open Session:**

**Motion** by Dale second by Lee to authorize the Transition Team designated on July 7<sup>th</sup> to negotiate a contract for interim executive management services, not to exceed 18 months. Motion **Carried**, 10/1

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 17, at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire with committee meetings at 6:15.** Lee will bring snacks and \_\_\_\_\_ will lead devotions.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary