

Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 2009, at Hope 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 (left at 9 pm), Bill Jenson, and Pastor Jim Page

Members Absent: Dale Kringle

Ex-Officio Members in attendance: Pastor Craig Corbin

Visitors Present: Arlen Berkquist

5:30 **Hope Lutheran Game Feed**
7:00 **Finance, Program & Property Committees meet**
7:30 **Full Board meeting**

Public Comment-- none

Call to order, address changes to the agenda and devotions

President Steve called the meeting to order at 7:40. Approval of minutes of the December 26, 2008, special board meeting was added to the agenda. Devotions by Pastor Lee included a reading about discouragement, discernment, and trust, and ended with prayer.

Approval of Minutes for the December 26, 2008 special meeting of the board

The secretary was absent for this meeting, and no recorder was appointed. Important decisions were made and the past president now realizes that there should be an official public record. Pastor Mike has an e-mail summary of the December 26, meeting which he had sent to two board members who were unable to attend. **Motion: Don moved to accept the e-mail content as the basis of a summary of the December 26, 2008 meeting, which will be kept on file. Seconded by Pastor Mike. Discussion followed and the motion was revised to include a record of who was present and absent at the meeting. Don and Pastor Mike accepted the revision and the Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2009

A correction was made under New Business, to change the remainder of Pastor John's term from one year to two years. A couple of typographical errors were also corrected. **Motion: Amanda moved, and Brenda seconded, to approve the October 6, minutes as corrected and the Motion carried.**

Board Bylaws / Policy Review--None at this meeting

Discussion regarding appointment of committees (Bylaws 4.A.5)

It was noted that resolution #2 on the agenda for the November 14 special meeting of the corporation, is contrary to the Luther Park By-Laws 4.A.5. This agenda was not developed by the board, but by a small group of six, representing the 31 congregations who have requested the special meeting.

Director's Report—Pastor Craig Corbin

Pastor Craig plans to submit written reports to the board in the future. This start up month has been intense in terms of Luther Point and Luther Park staff hours spent in getting established and taking care of the most urgent needs.

Some changes that have taken place or will be completed in the very near future are:

1. The post office box has been closed. The new free delivery address for Luther Park is 944 24 1/4 Street.
2. A new, more economical webmaster will update the website.
3. An updated credit card transaction method will change the cost per transaction from 7% to 2.2% and will save several hundred dollars per year now and much more in the future as more credit card transactions are made.
4. A Virtual Private Network telephone system will be running in a few days. This will allow Luther Park and Luther Point staff unlimited phone use between the camps and will allow Luther Point staff to answer a phone call that was made to Luther Park. The additional monthly fee for this is very small.
5. Eleven separate phone lines at Luther Park have been cut to only what is needed. The monthly \$470 phone bill will be reduced to \$150, saving \$3600 per year.
6. Finances are being reentered into a new system (Quick Books) so that the director and board can better track income and expenses. The old system is outdated and inefficient.
7. The fall "Ask Letter" from the director will be sent to many more individuals than in the past. On Tuesday, October 20, volunteers will stuff between 5—7000 envelopes. The call for volunteers went out on Oct. 14, and 20 have already responded. More are needed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee—

Brenda gave a summary of the September 30, 2009 financial report. Our year-to-date gross income has improved from last month, -\$29,818.57 to -\$9,748.41 and cash in the bank has gone from -\$85,302.98 in August to -\$64,390.21. Our total debt stands at \$554,996.28. Many checks are still being held and we are seeking a loan so we can get the overdue bills paid. The written report also included a summary of the Reserve Fund.

Accept Financial Report

Motion: A motion to accept the September 30, financial report as printed was made by Don, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Property & Program Committees

Property--Don reported that volunteers helped move the synod office to Luther Park today. The synod and camp have agreed on who will have keys for which parts of the building. Since last month, a furnace has been repaired. The 2010 budget will need to include funds for some much needed facility improvements.

Program--Amanda reported 26 have already registered for the November 6-7 Middle School Recharge and many more are expected. The October Recharge for grades 3-5 was successful and there have been a couple requests to have another weekend for this age group in the

spring, which the committee is considering. Amanda sent an e-mail summary of the first Recharge to board members earlier this month. Pastor Craig said that he is hoping to have no increases in the cost of VBS for next summer.

Unfinished business

Fall "Ask Letter" - Craig-- Covered in the Director's report.

NW Synod Office relocation - Move date 10-15 & 16 -Covered in Property report.

Discontinued use of the Message Board as of (date?) -This will take place as we transition to the new webmaster.

Special Corporation Meeting -agenda & updates -Steve has talked to Les Walck, spokesperson for the small group who set the agenda. The group is not willing to make any changes from what they have sent to the churches. Pastor Mike and Amanda are composing a letter to all 134 congregations of the corporation explaining the board's stand on the agenda that we had no input on.

New business

Thank you to First Lutheran Church (Karen Nielsen-Social Action committee) for their financial gift (\$10,000) to Luther Park from Josephine Krueger's estate -

Motion: Motion made by Pastor Lee, seconded by Don to send a hearty thank you to Karen Nielsen and the Social Action Committee for the wonderful donation to Luther Park from the Josephine Krueger estate. Motion carried.

Completion of the Conference Pastor's Meeting -A combined summary of all the sessions was compiled by Pastor Kurt Jacobson and e-mailed to board members. Suggestion was made by JoDeen to somehow give pastors of the LaCrosse Area Synod an opportunity to also have some input in Luther Park's future plans.

Timeline for long range planning - Jim and Steve will work on a time line for Luther Park long range strategic planning involving help from Mission Enablers.

Potential additional Staff reductions -Moved to closed session.

Toufar ELCA benefits -Some questions have come up. Brenda and Rick will work with the ELCA and the Toufars as needed to clear this up. The board confirmed that the intent has always been to provide medical coverage for both Sherm and Mary through December 2009 and to also provide disability and pension for Sherm through December 2009.

LP web page updates -Updates will be made with the new webmaster.

Closed Session -The board went into closed session at 10:00 pm.

Open Session -At 11:15 the board reconvened in open session. No action was taken during the closed session.

Next Meeting

November 12- special board meeting

6 pm at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire.

snacks - Brenda

devotions - Mike

purpose -- to prepare for the special meeting of the corporation on Nov. 14.

November 14- Congregationally called special meeting of the corporation to be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 2:00pm at Grace Lutheran in Eau Claire.

November 19 -regular monthly board meeting

6:15 committee meetings, 7 pm full board at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire.

snacks -

devotions -

Motion: Motion to Adjourn by Don, second by Eileen. Meeting adjourned 11:20 pm and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectively submitted,
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary