

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
April 18, 2009, at Luther Park Bible Camp, Chetek**

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

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

Guest in Attendance: Mark Burkhardt, Executive for Outdoor Ministries, ELCA

Members Absent: Bill Jenson, Pastor Jim Page, and Pastor Michael Wollman

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by board president, Steve Kolden, at 9:25 a.m. following the committee meetings.

Devotions:

Amanda read Psalms 139 reminding us that there is nowhere that we can be apart from God. Devotions ended with prayer.

Minutes and Approval:

Eileen made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2009, board meeting as previously e-mailed. Don made the second. **Motion carried.**

Financial Report:

Sherm presented the report because the financial committee had not received the report until this morning and didn't have time to analyze the figures. Printed copies of the Income/Expense report ending March 31, 2009, were given to all board members. There are no checks being held for March and the \$35,000 loan from 2008 has been repaid.

Brenda and Steve requested that Sherm have the financial reports sent by e-mail in a PDF file, to all board members, one week in advance of the monthly meeting. Board members also expressed a desire for a short summary at the beginning of the report.

Motion by Don, second by Pr Lee to accept the written financial report. **Carried.**

The president asked the finance committee to look at some different ways to present the financial report to the board and to decide on the best format for our use.

A lengthy discussion followed on the \$35,000 loan that was taken out to cover 2008 operational expenses. The loan has now been repaid using money received through the matching grant. There was concern expressed about how and where this loan is shown on the financial report and whether it was the intent of the matching grant donor to use some of this money for operational debt. Sherm, along with at least one board member will meet with the donor to clear up any misunderstanding of the intended use of the generous gift given to Luther Park.

Directors' Reports:

Sherm informed the board that the best gas price deal he has found for the next heating season would be an upfront deposit of 25 cents per gallon based on the 5840 gallons used last season, or about \$1460. This would lock in the price at \$1.41/gal. The board agreed that Sherm should go ahead with this contract.

Sherm's report was emailed to board members earlier and he elaborated on the many benefits of attending the Executive Directors Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Many of the sessions dealt with financial information and he found that many other camps in the country are facing financial difficulties this year.

Sherm is working to form a Development Cabinet of a few professional people willing to be financial advisors to the Executive Director.

Plans for the Eau Claire fundraiser, golf outing, and auction are all progressing.

Sherm mentioned that he is facing a few health problems and will be having some physical tests in the near future.

Mary elaborated on the report she emailed earlier, and also spoke for the Program Committee. As of April 15, camp registrations were at 584 compared to 634 at the same time last year. She is going to check into putting our camp promotional CD on YouTube. So far, she has hired three less than a full summer staff. The Campus Ministry Vocation Retreat recently held at Luther Park was very worthwhile and Mary considers it a highlight of the spring.

Property Committee Report-

Don reported that volunteers completed reroofing one cabin this week. Dave has made a new roadside sign to mark the turn onto Luther Park Road and volunteers are helping him install it today. New federal regulations mean that we will have to buy and install new pool drain covers before we open the swimming pool this summer. Dave is still researching the purchase, but it could be about \$2000 and was not budgeted for.

Old Business:

Replicating the Conference Pastor's Meeting-

Dale reported for the task force appointed last month to work on this. Dale had a conversation with Pastor Mike Pancoast who said that he is willing to lead a similar session in the Heart of the North conference and maybe in another area. Mike would like to include delegates from Luther Park member churches as well as the pastors and youth leaders.

New Business:

1. Northwest Synod Office relocation to Luther Park

Bishop Pederson has proposed a plan to move the synod office from Rice Lake to Luther Park. Initial discussions have the Synod Offices relocating to the north end of the Welcome Center and transitioning those rooms to office space and possibly using a portion of the basement for Synod storage. Unofficially, an annual rent of \$15,000 including utilities has been discussed. The following resolution, if agreed to by the Luther Park board will be presented at the Synod Gathering this spring:

Resolution

Date: April 18, 2009

Resolution Title: Synod Office Relocation

Name & Phone Number or Contact Person: Sue Zahrbock (715) 822-5539

Due April 18

Revised April 6, 2009

Synod Office Relocation

WHEREAS, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin pays \$19,500 annually for office space to a private landlord in a building that is for sale; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin could benefit from a reduced cost for office space and Luther Park Bible Camp could benefit as the recipient of rental income from the synod; and

WHEREAS, space is available in the Welcome Center of Luther Park Bible Camp that could accommodate the offices of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, a Chetek location honors the intent of past Synod Assembly action to have the synod office centrally located in the synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the offices of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin relocate to the site of Luther Park Bible Camp; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council be authorized to determine the terms and timing of relocation in conjunction with the Board of Directors of Luther Park Bible Camp.

Submitted by:

Synod Council, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Board of Directors, Luther Park Bible Camp

Moved by Pastor Lee, Second by Don that the Luther Park Board of Directors supports and endorses the relocation of the Northwest Synod to Luther Park Bible Camp. The board further authorizes the executive committee to enter into a lease agreement with the Synod Office and negotiate a lease price and the specific details of the lease agreement. **Motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

2. Conversations between Luther Park Executive Committee and Luther Point Executive Committee

Steve, Brenda, Don, and Mike met with the Exec. Director and Executive Committee of Luther Point on April 16. It was a meeting to talk about our shared ministry and ways we might be able to co-operate and expand opportunities for campers. This was a first step in communication between the two camps and there was no action at this time.

Mary shared with the board that similar talks have taken place with Luther Point in the past. There was a lot of interest about 20 years ago, but it was dropped because camp loyalties were too strong at that time.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at Trinity in Eau Claire, beginning with committee meetings at 6:15 p.m. and the full board at 7:00. Mary will give the devotions and John will provide snacks.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A short closed session of the board followed the regular meeting. No action was taken in the closed session.

Respectfully submitted,

JoDeen Forsyth, secretary