

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
July 16, 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 Jim Page, Pastor Michael Wollman, Bill Jenson, Dale Kringle, and Pastor John Ashland.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Sherm Toufar, (Mary Toufar excused)

Members Absent: none

Call To Order:

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

Devotions:

Dale led the devotions with assistance from Amanda, reading Romans 8:35 and Romans 8:28. Devotions closed with a prayer for the Toufar family and Luther Park.

Minutes and Approval:

Don made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2009, board meeting as previously e-mailed. Bill made the second.

Motion carried.

Directors' Reports:

Mary was not present to give a report because she was at camp working with the weekly Christ Walk.

Sherm's report was e-mailed to board members earlier in the week. He said the summer camps have been excellent. Family Camp registration is full and they are looking for more space for families still wanting to come. Sherm said that with his remaining time, he intends to fund raise and try to leave the camp in the best possible shape he can. Jim asked for clarification on the total income through June, as recorded on Sherm's report and it was determined that the total income was actually \$594.50 more than the total typed on the monthly report.

Financial Report:

Brenda reported that the Treasurer (Brenda) and bookkeeper (Rick) met with Dan Borreson, a retired Wipfli partner, who helped them look at cash handling internal control procedures that can be implemented for efficiency. A locked mailbox on site, would eliminate the need for some one to drive to the post office each day. The Property Committee was asked to check into the cost of this type of mailbox. Purchasing a check scanner would eliminate daily trips to Chetek to make the deposit at the bank. The Treasurer and bookkeeper will talk with the NW Synod to see if they would be interested in sharing a check scanner. Other cash management internal control items discussed were invoice handling and check signing. Rick can assign account numbers and attach receiving documentation to the invoices as long as the board treasurer reconciles the bank statements. This new procedure will start in September.

Mike led the board through a discussion about additional reductions to get the 2009 budget closer to the \$82,000 reduction goal set at the July 7 meeting. We have to end the year in the black, or our First Lutheran loan will be in default. Additional staff reductions, increasing the employee portion of benefit contributions, and staff furloughs (unpaid time off) were all considered, but dismissed. Sherm suggested the board consider moving some of the debt by mortgaging the director's home, which could later be sold to pay it off. He also suggested checking on a possible lower interest loan from Mission Investment Fund or Thrivent. A **Motion** was made by Don, seconded by Mike to add \$7000 to our budget reductions* by not replacing the Welcome Center roof during the 2009 fiscal year. **Carried.**

Further financial discussion centered around how much it will cost to pay for health insurance and pension to the end of the year for both Mary and Sherm, which is the intent of the board. Sherm is going to contact the ELCA Pension board for some clarification on the cost. Some board members felt that we should also consider a severance package for Mary, but no action was taken.

Property Committee Report:

Don said the committee has determined that we can put off shingling the Welcome Center roof for the time being, as discussed in the financial report. The camp passed a health and safety inspection last week. We will probably need to replace about 100 worn mattresses before the next camping season. The pool will need to be repainted next year.

Program Committee Report:

Amanda said that the Recharges will happen as scheduled for October, November, December, January, and March. The committee started brainstorming how that will happen at tonight's meeting. Mary has shared her detailed notes and outlines from past Recharges. Many volunteers will be needed.

Old Business:**Replicating the Conference Pastor's Meeting-**

There was no update on the progress of this except that Jim and Steve will meet with Pastor Kurt Jacobson on August 21, if he is available.

NW Synod Office relocation—Schedule next meeting with Synod

The next meeting will be Monday, August 3, at 4:00 pm at Luther Park. The actual move is now expected to be later than first anticipated—probably early November.

Sherm left the meeting as previously agreed.

New Business:**Public Communication-****Use of the Luther Park Website-**

Steve stated that we don't want to engage in a debate on Facebook—especially on the page set up for supporting Sherm and Mary. Steve has talked to the webmaster of the Luther Park website and proposed that we set up a side tab to "Questions for the Board." Steve will put one last post on Facebook explaining that all questions will be taken on the Luther Park website. Questions will be submitted, checked by board members, answered by several board members and then posted for the public. It was agreed that this is a better method for answering questions, then the Facebook forum. Steve will work out the details with the webmaster, Dave Hurt.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel-

Mike has been contacted by the religion reporter from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, who is doing an article on the hard times facing Bible camps. A **motion** by Don, with a second by Dale, that Mike and Lee, speak for the board with the reporter on July 17, 2009. **Carried.**

Special Corporation Meeting-

There was a discussion on the pros and cons of holding a special corporation meeting. The board agreed against calling such a meeting at this time.

Board Meeting with Summer Staff-

Steve would like to set up a Friday evening time when a few board members could meet informally with any summer staff members who would like to talk. Steve will work with Diana to establish a time and place. The board will be informed so those who are free can attend.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 20, at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire with committee meetings at 6:15.** Bill will bring snacks and Amanda will lead devotions.

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

Adjournment:

Motion by Mike, second by Dale to adjourn the meeting at 9:50. **Carried.** The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

JoDeen Forsyth, secretary

*word added as a correction made at the Aug. 20, 2009 meeting