

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
June 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 (left at 8:10), Eileen Christopherson, JoDeen Forsyth Pastor Jim Page, Pastor Michael Wollman, Bill Jenson, and Dale Kringle.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Mary Toufar (left at 7:55) and Sherm Toufar

Members Absent: none

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by board president, Steve Kolden, at 7:30 pm. following a 5:30 dinner with the campers and committee meetings at approximately 6:45.

Devotions:

Steve reflected on “How (not IF) you are being called by God,” based on a sermon given by Pastor Mary Jorgenson of Our Savior’s Lutheran in Menomonie. It’s not just ministers who are called into God’s services, but all of us. Sometimes we don’t respond immediately, but God is persistent when He has something in mind for you. Devotions ended with the prayer, “We Pray for Children” by Ina Hughes published by William Morrow in 1995.

Minutes and Approval:

Eileen made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2009, board meeting as previously e-mailed. Don made the second. **Motion carried.**

Board Bylaws/Policy Review-

The president presented a handout of proposed job descriptions, roles, and responsibilities for Luther Park Board Members, the Executive Committee, and the Personnel Committee. He noted that the description still needs a statement about the board functioning as a whole and that individual members do not have authority to act for the board unless given that authority by the board. Steve asked members to email suggested revisions, corrections, or additions to him in the next week so that he can continue to refine the final policy.

Directors' Reports:

Mary reported that she hired 3 fewer counselors than last year. Ten years ago, there were 10 more counselors than we have now. The present summer staff is stretched and extra counselors may have to be hired for a couple of the full camp weeks. Mary’s full report was emailed to board members prior to the meeting.

Sherm’s monthly activities report and annual fund update for May were emailed to board members before the meeting. Board members who can help with the Golf Outing on Monday, June 22, are asked to be at Turtleback by 11:00 a.m. Hole sponsors and major sponsors are down from last year because many who have helped in the past have indicated that they are unable to donate this year. We have approximately 60 registered golfers and there is room for more, so please try to recruit golfers through the weekend because it will be a day of fun for Luther Park supporters. Sherm also handed out an update on the status of the Larson Matching Gift Program showing a total of \$146,909.64 available for debt reduction as of June 16, 2009.

Program Committee Report—

JoDeen reported that the committee worked on a list of responsibilities for Program Committee Members, as requested by the president. John noted that Amanda and her husband did an outstanding job of training the summer staff in presenting the Bible study to this year’s campers.

Property Committee Report-

Don reported that there have been no problems since the last meeting, except that the housekeeper has resigned. Property manager, Dave says that with the summer PALS and some help from counselors, they will manage the summer without hiring another housekeeper. If any churches could provide volunteer cleaning groups on Friday afternoons, they would be greatly appreciated. The president asked Sherm to have this volunteer opportunity added to the Luther Park website. (It was also noted that board members would like to see the summer Sunday schedule of churches visited by Luther Park counselors listed on the website.) The Luther Park executive committee will be meeting with representatives of the Northwest Synod on Tuesday, June 23, at 5:00 p.m. at Luther Park to discuss the terms, conditions, remodeling, etc for the relocation of the synod office to the Luther Park Welcome Center.

Financial Report:

A financial report summary was handed out and Brenda highlighted some of the main totals. We continue to make some headway against our debt, but currently have about a \$75,000 operating deficit. The financial committee feels that we need to reduce this before the end of the year. They have asked Sherm to prepare a list of cuts that can be made now so the committee can revise the 2009 budget. The Financial Committee will meet with Sherm on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at Luther Park at 1:00 p.m. to propose a revised budget.

Motion by Don, second by Pastor Jim to accept the written financial report. **Carried.**

JoDeen asked if it would be beneficial to offer some discounted last minute registrations for weeks that have very low enrollment. Most members felt that this would only be a temporary benefit and that it might end up encouraging families to wait for the sale in future summers. Steve suggested that we try to market the camp to churches that have not sent campers to Luther Park in recent years by offering a few free camperships to weeks with low registrations. Sherm said that the Endowment Fund has some money that must be used for camperships this year and could be used in this manner. A **motion** was made by Don that available Endowment Fund money be used to offer 16 full camperships to 8 churches who have not sent campers to Luther Park in the past 3 years. The churches to receive this gift and the weeks available will be determined by Sherm and staff and the camp records. Pastor Mike seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Sherm will get this organized and have the offers mailed out in the next few days.

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

Dale reported no updates on this and asked the board for more detail on how they would like to proceed on this since the only pastor who had indicated an interest in facilitating more of these meetings, has moved out of state. After some discussion, it was decided that Pastor Kurt Jacobson should be asked if he would facilitate another meeting or two, in different locations. Pastor Jim will talk to Pastor Jacobson.

Pieces of Luther Park Update:

Brenda handed out a detailed summary of the activities, outcomes, suggested changes, and contact names from the fundraiser organized by the Eau Claire Lutheran churches. The summary shows a profit of about \$6000 for Luther Park. The summary was written to be a starting resource for next year's event or for other congregations if they wish to put together similar fundraisers.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Closed Session as needed

There was no closed session at this meeting.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held at **3:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, at Luther Park**, following the financial committee meeting at 1:00 the same day. Pastor Mike will give the devotions and Brenda will provide a snack. **Please note that this is a change from the regular schedule.** We may or may not, meet on the third Thursday, July 16.

Adjournment:

Motion by Don, second by Pastor Jim to adjourn the meeting at 8:55. **Carried.** The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

JoDeen Forsyth, secretary