

Luther Park Board of Directors

Approved Minutes

February 21st, 2013 at Horizons in Tilden

Meeting at 6:30pm

FULL BOARD MEETING

Roll Call: *Members present:* Linda E, Kay M-U, Michele Z, Dale K, Ben A-I, Steve K, Bert S, Chris K, Julie C, Joel O. *Members absent:* Tom W, Alan B. *Staff present:* Executive Ministry Director Keith Newman, Program and Promotions Director Jon Schack.

Public Comment - *none*

CALL TO ORDER

Devotions – Joel – *Reflections on Joel 2:13 “Return to the Lord your God,” as this might pertain to personal lives, the ministry of Luther Park, and in response to God’s initiative*

Approval of Agenda (additions & revisions) – *addition of report on Covenants returned*

Approval of January 17th Minutes **MSC (Kay M-U, Linda E) to approve minutes of January 17, 2013 as distributed.**

DIRECTORS’ REPORTS

Executive Ministry Director – Keith Newman *Keith referred to his extensive report beginning on page 5 of the Board Packet. Orally he reiterated the tremendous potential of Luther Park, and observed that the large body of caring constituents are “standing on one leg” waiting to either step forward or to step back, depending on the direction of the Camp’s ministry in the coming year.*

In order to win the confidence of the constituents, and to enhance and grow the ministry of Luther Park, Keith sees a need to show dramatic changes and improvements in the budget. Currently we are carrying about \$50K from last years expenses, which includes \$23K to Luther Point for joint management expenses, and \$13K to Indianhead Foods.

Further, Keith sees value in working on improvements in the following areas:

Finance – we must operate in the black when we balance expenses with income. For example, January 2013 was “in the black” considering only the month’s expenses with income. Of course, we are responsible for 2012 carryover expenses, and thus, over all, we are not currently operating “in the black.”

Program must be enhanced with a “culture of change” in order to energize the ministry of the Camp and to gain the attention of constituents and camp clients.

Luther Woods needs an intentional long-term use plan.

Facilities improvements are outlined in Keith’s written report, and focused on Shalom and the Dining Center for immediate consideration, and on Covenant and the Chapel for long term.

Staff – Keith orally spoke about staff in response to a question from a Board Member. There was a general consensus among the Board that these kinds of recommendations are what we are looking for from an Executive Ministry Director, and there was widespread satisfaction with the vision and energy of Keith Newman. Welcome aboard!

Program and Promotions Director – Jon Schack

Jon has visited eleven college recruitment fairs. Last year there were 35 on the counseling staff, and Jon has received applications for 23 returning counselors and eight new senior counselors. Jon has been developing and utilizing social media for promotion of the Camp’s ministries. Regarding upcoming retreats for April, Jon noted that scheduling and programming is in flux.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – *Ben A-I pointed out much of the concern of the Committee has been discussed in conjunction with Keith Newman's report. Let it be known again that in January 2013, considering income versus expenses, we were in the black! There has been an encouraging response to the February Ask letter sent to Way Club and Towering Pines members only.*

Accept Financial Report – ***MSC (Linda E, Bert S) to accept the Finance Report as presented.***

Property Committee – *Speaking for the Committee, Dale et al affirms the report from the Executive Ministry Director regarding facilities.*

Program Committee – *Bert S reported that EMD Keith Newman will be the principal presenter at Family Camp. Bert also noted that due to transitional issues, we are running late on mailing the brochures for summer registration.*

Executive Committee – *no report*

NEW BUSINESS

Covenant Letter – *Joel O reported that with the new Constitution approved last April, we have mailed Covenant letters to 120 constituent congregations asking for their intentions regarding support for the ministries of Luther Park. At the end of December 2012 we had received 58 Covenants returned, all affirming their affiliation with Luther Park. A second letter was sent December 26 reminding pastors to place on annual meeting agendas the matter of affiliation with Luther Park. As of February 21, an additional 24 Covenants were returned (total 82 returned) with 38 yet outstanding. Steve K suggested board members contact those congregations which lie within respective cluster groupings. Olsen will prepare a listing of non-responding constituents by cluster groupings for the March meeting, or before.*

UN-FINISHED BUSINESS

Tractor Update – *Property Committee is recommending this purchase be put on hold for a while until a more detailed study of equipment needs is made.*

Finance Committee Recommendations - *there was no substantive discussion of the matter*

Luther Woods Committee Update – *Dale has e-mailed to each board member a proposal letter for purchase. Upon discussion around the table, and with EMD Keith Newman, earlier, Dale is recommending we decline the proposal as presented, to give Luther Park time to develop a plan for ministry usage. (Such plans have been developed in the past, the most recent in about 2003.) It will cost about \$225 to withdraw from the listing contract with lakeplace.com of Birchwood.*

MSC (Steve K, Michele Z) to withdraw from the listing contract, pay the administrative fee to the agent at lakeplace.com, and put the sale on hold for at least two years.

Dale further discussed some options for logging the MFL tracts yet in 2013.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Next meeting- March 21st at Horizons in Tilden (someone please bring radishes for Steve!)

April meeting date – April 18 at Horizons in Tilden

*NOTE: Thereafter recommending that we try to move to **bi-monthly meetings**, thus: March, April, June, August, October and December. There will probably be a cook-out on about May 30 hosted by the Board for the summer staff.*

Devotions for next meeting – *Tom W (absent tonight) is being asked to prepare thoughts for our gathering.*

ADJOURN – ***MSC (Julie C, Michele Z) to adjourn with the board standing and joining in the audible repetition of the Lord's Prayer.***

Gladly prepared and submitted by Joel Olsen, Recording Secretary