

**Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
March 18, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire**

Board Members In Attendance: Pastor Michael Wollman, 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, Sherm Toufar

Members Absent: Bill Jenson and Pastor Jim Page

Call To Order and announcements:

The meeting was called to order by board president, Steve Kolden, at 7:15 p.m. following the committee meetings and snacks provided by Amanda. Steve announced that the personnel committee would meet with Sherm and Mary for a few minutes following the adjournment of the board meeting. Linda Reinolt and Bill Jenson are both making good progress in recovery from illness.

Devotions:

Eileen passed out jelly beans and then led the group in a devotional look at the jelly bean colors represented in the Easter story through the words of a poem written by her niece. Devotions ended with prayer.

Minutes and Approval:

Don made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2009, board meeting as presented. The second was made by Pr Lee. **Motion carried.**

Directors' Reports:

Sherm's report was emailed to board members earlier and copies were also available at the meeting. The report summarized his Executive Director activities for the month of February and the annual fund income for February. Money received to date, qualifying for the matching challenge grant, totals \$40,279.82. A matching check for \$35,829.82 should be received the end of March.

Sherm expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the Association of Lutheran Development Executives in Austin, TX, February 21-25. The general theme was Christian Stewardship and Development. Sherm felt that it was a worthwhile experience and found the sessions valuable.

Mary's report was handed out. She has completed her visits to 12 college campuses to recruit summer staff. There are 47 applicants for the 36 possible positions. The final number of summer staff hired will depend on camper registrations.

Committee Reports:

Program—

Mary reported that the committee has finished working on the summer Bible study outline. She will now finalize the daily components and design the handouts.

Property—

Don reported that there have been no recent problems and all cabins are ready for the camping season. Several volunteer groups are scheduled to work on property projects in April and May.

Finance—

Copies of the Income/Expense report ending February 28, 2009, were passed out. Pr Lee summarized some of the highlights, noting that income is still behind budget, mostly due to the fact that registrations are coming in slower than expected. By the end of the month we should have \$70,000 to pay toward our debt, but this money will have to subsidize the annual fund until we catch up to the budget for the year.

Motion made by Don, seconded by Mike to accept the financial report as printed. **Carried.**

Old Business:

1. Reconsider Action of Feb. 19 on Authorized Check Signers for Luther Park—

At the February meeting a motion was made and passed to authorize Sherm Toufar, Linda Reinolt, Dave Dobbs, and Brenda Thalacker to sign checks for Luther Park. Sherm stated that he would like the board to reconsider this action in light of the fact that 1. check signers are not required to be board members or employees, but all checks must have two signatures, 2. Brenda feels that she lives too far away to be of help when checks need to be signed and 3. our former board treasurer, Stan Buchanan, lives closer and is willing to continue to be one of the check signers. A **motion** was made by Don and seconded by Pr Lee that **Brenda's name be removed from last month's action and replaced by that of Stan Buchanan, so that the list of authorized check signers for Luther Park should read; Sherm Toufar, Linda Reinolt, Dave Dobbs, and Stan Buchanan.** **Motion carried.**

2. Board Retreat Arrangements—

The board retreat will be at Luther Park on Friday, April 17, beginning with dinner at 6 pm and running to 5 pm on Saturday, April 18. The Way Club banquet will begin at 6 pm on Saturday. The guest speaker for both will be Mark Burkhardt, ELCA Executive for Outdoor Ministries.

3. Replicating the Conference Pastor's Meeting—

The board would like to see the type of Luther Park listening session held for conference pastors at Trinity of Eau Claire in January, repeated in other conferences, but we are unsure how to facilitate this. Pr Lee brought up some concerns and ideas that were expressed by the pastors in the Heart of the North conference when this meeting idea was discussed:

- Not all congregations in a conference are associated with Luther Park.
- Is there a need to develop a joint brochure highlighting all the Lutheran camps in the area?
- A Methodist Bible camp at Fredric has recently closed—should we invite them to Luther Park for our program or offer them the use of our camp for a couple weeks to continue their own program?

After some discussion, the president asked for volunteers willing to work on a task force to study how we can best facilitate discussion and listening sessions among the pastors in the conferences served by Luther Park. **Mary, Mike, and Dale volunteered to be on that task force.**

4. Update on Executive Director search process—

Steve, Don, and Amanda are working on this and did not have anything new to report since last month. A question was asked whether the job description for the new executive director will remain the same as the present, but this has not yet been decided.

New Business:

Property Committee—will consider boat storage questions.

Golf Outing—The date and place are definite now and the 5th Annual Luther Park Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 22, 2009, at Turtleback in Rice Lake. Sherm is meeting this Saturday with Jerry Christianson to discuss plans.

Eau Claire Fundraiser--Brenda told the board that plans have been finalized for a Luther Park fundraiser sponsored by all 9 Eau Claire ELCA churches and Thrivent, on Wednesday, May 27, from 4-8 pm. at Trinity. "Pieces of Luther Park" will include food, crafts, auction, games, and more. Spread the word. Everyone is invited.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held during the board retreat on April 17-18. We will begin with supper at 6 pm on Friday and continue through 5 pm on Saturday. Everyone should bring some snacks to share during the retreat. Pr Lee will give the Friday devotions and Amanda will give devotions on Saturday. (There will **not** be a board meeting on the 3rd Thursday of April.)

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary