

Luther Park Annual Meeting Minutes February 1, 2025

Board Members Present: Ted Bensen, Josie Wilterdink, Christine Anderson, Kris Jenson, Beth Kley, Jeff Merritt, Anna Sorenson, Jon Strand, Brad Peterson, Bethany Walker, Katie Wagner

Board Members Absent: John Moen

Others Present: Executive Director Eric Klein

Parliamentarian: Pastor Mara Ahles-Iverson

- Call to Order: Called to order at 10:03 am by Ted Benson, in lieu of John Moen
- Devotions – Executive Director Eric Klein
 - Galatians 6:9 - Paul gets that ministry is hard. We do not always get to see the harvest, but we know the hard work pays off and the rewards will come. God will move in the ways we can not. Paul does not just tell us to wait for the harvest, but to not be weary in the hard work. While all the work of Luther Park seems exhausting, God is working with us and we can not grow weary. The work is important.
- Parliamentarian – Pastor Mara Ahles-Iverson
- Presentation of Remote Participation Procedures
 - All are welcome to join this meeting via in-person or online. Anna Sorenson presented the protocol for participating online.
- Presentation of Agenda – Motion to Approve or Revise
 - Mike Vetsch, Lyster Lutheran, Nelson moved. Tom Waggener, Immanuel Lutheran, Strum second. All approved.
- Roll Call
 - Declaration of Quorum to Conduct Business
 - 32 Churches represented by 61 Delegates; quorum met.
- Acceptance of New Member Churches
 - None
- Introductions
 - Board – Board President John Moen
 - Introduction of Board Members
 - Staff – Executive Director Eric Klein
 - Eric Klein, Executive Director
 - Abby Vander Laan, Program Director
 - Liz Caya, Program and Office Administrator
 - Bill Reed, Property Manager
 - Joan Stuart, Head Cook
 - Beth Kley, Cook
 - Jan Ramlet, Hospitality and Housekeeping
 - Stephani Fossum, Associate Housekeeper
- Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting – February 3, 2024 – Motion to Approve or Revise
 - Joan Moe, Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire, moved. Kris Jenson, Shepherd of the Hill, Elk Mound, second. All approved.

- Minutes of Special Meeting – April 21, 2024 – Motion to Approve or Revise
 - Don Moats, St. John’s Lutheran, Alma moved. Mary Toufar, Good Shepherd, Eau Claire second. All approved.
- Board President Report – John Moen as given by Ted Bensen
 - Full letter from the board is on page 2 of the annual report.
 - Highlight of the Strategic Plan
 - Many thanks to a great number of people, including the Luther Park staff.
 - Thanks to all participants at meetings, donors, and supporters in so many ways to Luther Park.
- Executive Director Report – Eric Klein
 - Grateful for all participants.
 - Grateful for the perseverance of all that continue to support Luther Park in all ways.
 - Welcomed 722 summer campers in 2024.
 - We are learning more about how to build relationships with people using camp.
 - Strengthened bonds with campers, renters, and congregations.
 - We know to thrive means looking long term. Worked on property updates. Moved Liz into a fresh role. Staff all working at campus improvements.
 - Many faithful people doing important, faithful work.
- Finance Committee Report – Pastor Brad Peterson
 - Took on the role in July 2024 as the previous treasurer, Martin Halom, was elected as Bishop.
 - Ended the year above budget due to a very large estate gift and other continued giving.
 - We should be able to pay off the line of credit in the next year.
 - Cash flow remains slow through the course of the year. Please continue to encourage your church and members to give throughout the year and not annually.
- Finance Committee Report - Treasurer Brad Peterson and Chair Jon Strand, Finance Committee
 - Long time staff, family, and donor to Luther Park.
 - He found as he joined the board and committee, the committee hadn’t been meeting regularly prior and financials were in poor shape.
 - When funds became available, they were unable to be used for the truly important needs of camp.
 - What if questions started ideas: What if camp didn’t need any donations?
 - In order to make camp free to users and not rely on unreliable donations, we must grow the endowment.
 - Another way to make camp financially stable means adjusting usage costs. 700 annual summer campers are currently paying on average \$75/person/day. 2600 retreat users are currently paying on average \$17/person/day.
 - We do not want to see Luther Park survive, but thrive.

- Endowment Fund Committee Report – Chair Scott Davis
 - The first year of reevaluating the endowment fund, it awarded the camp \$77, which has grown to \$990 in 2023, and \$2465 in 2024.
 - By-laws have been updated, committee membership has grown, transparency has been established, and hard work has been applied to updating the fund and making it viable for the future.
 - Anna Sorenson calls for everyone to consider giving toward this fund as a way of building a future for Luther Park.
 - Annually, it is decided to not charge the interest to the camp on the Internal Loan for one year in order that payments decrease the principal.
- Old Business
 - 2022 Audit Findings – Chair Jon Strand, Finance Committee
 - As of 2022, there had not been regular audits known of.
 - A summary of the full audit is on page 13 of the annual report. Full audit reports are available upon request.
- New Business
 - Proposed 2025 Budget – Pastor Brad Peterson, Treasurer
 - Reevaluated the budget to reflect actual usages and being flexible into the coming year at Luther Park.
 - Added a full time, new position; Development Coordinator
 - Change in Board of Pensions due to staffing changes
 - Summer Non-Wage is non-salary summer staff
 - Sherm Toufar, Good Shepherd, Eau Claire moved. Joan Moe, Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire second. All approved.
 - Luther Park Strategic Plan Update – Vice President Ted Bensen
 - Three major areas of focus. It is a living document that evolves as needs and greater picture changes. 1 year, 5 year, and 10 year priorities.
 - Board Strategic Plan Retreat held in October to assess completions, developments, and additions.
 - 1 year - Development Associate, increase quality programming, needs assessment of the community
 - 5 year - Debt paid off, Covenant Retreat remodel complete, Ministry Center complete, increase camper retention, expand off-season usage, Development Associate, maximise the use of Luther Park site, develop comprehensive plan for Woods and Farm
 - 10 year - Sustainable fiscal position, grow the endowment fund, partnerships within Barron Cty, robust programs on and off-site, pool upgrade, increase housing capacity (retreat suite, lodge, etc.)
 - Engaging Children in Worship Project – Pastor Anna Sorenson
 - \$1.25 million grant approval - \$2,000/month to Luther Park
 - Project works toward 5 outcomes. Congregations and camps working in partnership to foster and build youth ministry and worship.

- Election of Board Members
 - Four Nominees
 - John Moen (Incumbent) (Cluster III)
 - Susan Mommsen (Cluster III)
 - Rod Nordby (Cluster II)
 - Elizabeth Schoenknecht (At-Large)
 - Roger Proyce, Long Lake, Sarona moved to accept all nominations. Tom Johnson, Peace Lutheran, Menomonie, second. All approved.
- Election of Endowment Fund Committee Member
 - One Nominee
 - Pastor Wayne Kendrick (Incumbent)
 - Kris Jenson, Shepherd of the Hill, Elk Mound moved. Sherm Toufar, Good Shepherd, Eau Claire second. All approved.
- Election of Nominating Committee
 - Cluster Nominee - Brianna Iverson
 - Cluster Nominee -
 - At-Large Nominee –
 - Ted Benson moved to close nominations. All approved.
- Installation of Board / Endowment Fund Committee Members – Bishop Martin Halom, Luther Park Board Alumni
 - All members came forward to be recognized. Bishop Martin Halom provided prayer and blessings on these new members and their individual talents, quoting from 1 Corinthians.
- Out-Going Board Member Recognition
 - Beth Kley
 - Jeff Merritt
 - Josie Wilterdink
- Announcements
 - Spring Work Day – Saturday, April 26, 2025
 - Next Annual Meeting – Saturday, February 7, 2026
 - Lunch in Dining Hall
- Adjournment
 - Sherm Toufar, Good Shepherd, Eau Claire moved. Joan Moe, Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire second. All approved.
 - Adjournment 11:35 am.
- Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer – Pastor Bethany Walker