

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Minutes

Thursday August 13th 2020, 6:30 pm Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Isaiah, Pat, Donna, Doug, and Dean

Old Business:

- Update on Pat's initiative on Electric Vehicles.

On hold due to Covid, Pat will try to reconnect with her former councilman (Mayor Dave Badeaux) to see if there has been any progress toward siting an Electric Vehicle charging station in Brainerd.

- Continued discussion of BLUE's candidates' environmental scorecard for the 2020 election cycle.

Members will compile the environmental voting records of local representatives prior to September's meeting (per our February meeting) so the information can be disseminated prior to the election. Dean – Representative Leuck, Isaiah – Senator Gazelka & Representative Herring, Pat – Senator Ruud, Doug – Congressman Stauber, Karen – Representative Heintzeman. This may be accomplished either via a letter to the editor, or by a paid ad.

- Continued discussion on BLUE's campaign of writing letters to the editor in local publications.

We had a volunteer offer to submit a letter on the Senate rejecting the confirmation of Nancy Leppink as the MN Dept. of Labor and Industry Commissioner following her successfully leading action against Water Gremlin's injuries to their employees and the environment.

- Continued discussion on BLUE's participation in co-hosting a Candidates' Environmental Forum this fall.

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

We decided to file an application to man a table at the Arts in the Park event on Saturday October 10th in Gregory Park. Pat will submit the application and entry fee.

BLUE's partnership with LARA and BLAAS in hosting an Environmental Candidate's Forum is moving forward. It will be a virtual forum this year via ZOOM. It is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday October 21st. An email requesting questions from the public for candidates participating in the event will be circulated in the near future. Invitations will be sent to candidates for the CW county board, the SWCD board, and the state legislature in district 10.

New Business:

- Discussion on whether to continue our monthly meetings in person or on-line.

We will continue meeting in person unless the Covid crisis escalates.

- Discussion on whether/when to hold an election of BLUE officers, and if is one required by the group's bylaws.

Pat checked and the bylaws require an election in October. Isaiah is not interested in a second term as co-chair and Doug declined to throw his hat in the ring. If you would like to be considered or nominate someone for office, please submit your nomination before or at our September meeting.

- Doug suggested BLUE endorse 'Move To Amend's' Motion to Amend Petition.

The attendees determined we should vote on this at our next meeting, if you have any input please provide it before or at the September meeting.

- Treasure's report

It was agreed that Isaiah Oleson will change the mailing address for our account at the Mid MN credit union from Pat Scott's address to BLUE's P.O. Box #1205, Brainerd, MN 56401.