

## **BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) THURSDAY, JUNE 9 MEETING MINUTES**

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, June 9 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place in Gregory Park. Dean Borgeson, Donna Bowen, and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting. (BLUE plans to meet at Gregory Park, weather permitting, in July and August).

Meeting participants discussed BLUE hosting a table at Arts in the Park. Arts in the Park in Gregory Park will be held on Sunday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dean and Donna plan to volunteer at the BLUE table. Dean will ask for volunteers for the BLUE table.

Honor the Earth and allied organizations continue resist Line 3. Honor the Earth is hosting Shell City Campground reunions on the weekends of June 17-19, July 15-17, and August 26-28. The Shelly City Campground is located at Shell City Drive, Menahga. A Water Protector Camp existed at the Shell City Campground for most of 2021, during Line 3 Construction. The Shell City Campground reunions will discuss protecting water quality, sustainable farming, treaty rights, and environmental activism. There will be speakers, horseback riding, music, canoeing, and camping. Food will be provided. More information about the Shell City Campground reunions can be found at the Honor the Earth website at [honorearth.net/shell](http://honorearth.net/shell)

Honor the Earth, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Friends of the Headwaters, the Sierra Club, and other environmental organizations have lawsuits pending in court demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conduct an environmental impact statement on Line 3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers never conducted an environmental impact statement on Line 3 despite all of the environmental damage Line 3 construction caused, the harm Line 3 is doing by emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (the equivalent in CO<sub>2</sub> of 45-50 coal-fired power plants), and the very real threat of Line 3 spilling toxic tar sands and chemicals into lakes, rivers, streams, and other wetlands.

Rallies are being held outside the Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena County courthouses demanding prosecutors drop charges against Water Protectors arrested for peacefully resisting Line 3 construction. Meeting participants discussed holding a Water Protectors Solidarity vigil sometime in the future. A Water Protectors solidarity vigil could be held when Water Protectors go on trial in Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, or Wadena County. The vigil would be held in Brainerd, at the intersection of Sixth and Washington Streets, across from the historic Brainerd water tower. The Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group could host the Water Protectors solidarity vigil. The Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group is a coalition of Brainerd area progressive organizations, including BLUE, Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP), Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Brainerd Lakes Pride, and Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA).

BLUE meeting participants supported marching in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade under the Brainerd Democracy Alliance banner. BLUE joins BACP in supporting marching as a joint unit in the parade. DSA and LAMTA will discuss the issue of marching in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade as a joint unit at their upcoming meetings on Tuesday, June 14. [Both DSA and LAMTA members supported marching as a joint unit at their meetings].

Dean will submit the email addresses of the most active BLUE members to DSA co-chair Julius Kapushinski for the purpose of Julius organizing an online vote on changing the name of the Brainerd Area Joint Democracy Group later this summer. Julius will not use the emails to recruit for DSA. He will erase the emails immediately after the vote.

BLUE member Al Martin sent an email mentioning the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library in Crosby has new public electric vehicle charging stations. Public electric vehicle charging stations are being steadily built in Minnesota as demand for electric vehicles grows. Xcel Energy has a map of public electric vehicle charging stations in Minnesota at <https://ev.xcelenergy.com/charging-stations>

BLUE treasurer Pat Scott sent Dean and Doug an email stating the BLUE treasury has \$346 after receiving donations from BLUE members in May. BLUE greatly appreciates donations our members and supporters

make. These donations help BLUE pay for events, such as our Arts in the Park table. If you are interested in donating to BLUE, please mail your donation to:

BLUE  
P.O. Box 1205  
Brainerd, MN 56401

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. Weather permitting, the BLUE meeting will be held in Gregory Park. Gregory Park is located at 511 North Fifth Street, Brainerd. If bad weather prevents an outdoor meeting, the BLUE meeting will be held in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall. The UCC is located at 415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, near Gregory Park. The Fellowship Hall is located in the downstairs section of the UCC.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Minutes Submitted by Doug Olson

## **BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AGENDA**

The May monthly meeting will be held in person in the southwest corner of Gregory Park in Brainerd. Should circumstances dictate, the meeting will be held indoors in the First Congregational United Church of Christ immediately to the west of the park. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Please reply to the cover email if you wish to have any questions or anything to add to or change in the agenda.

### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

- Discussion of BLUE's participation in Brainerd's annual 'Arts in the Park' festival in Gregory Park on the final weekend in June.
- Discussion of BLUE's participation in Brainer's annual Fourth of July parade.
- Discussion of new electric vehicle charging stations at the Brainerd Public Library.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.
- Treasure's report