

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) MARCH 9TH, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Pat Scott, Judi and Richard Schiller, and Doug Olson joined the online BLUE meeting. BLUE meeting participants approved the Thursday, February 9 BLUE meeting minutes.

Destiny Mankowski of Pheasants Forever informed Dean the group doesn't plan to hold a Community Earth Day event this year. This is unfortunate, because the Community Earth Day event held in Kiwanis Park in April 2022 went well despite poor weather.

Pat received a letter from the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. The Minnesota Secretary of State's office requested a form from Pat. The name Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment will be used on the form. BLUE meeting participants approved the \$25 cost for the form. BLUE needs to send a financial statement to the Minnesota Attorney General's office. BLUE meeting participants approved the closing of the BLUE bank account at Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union. Doug has not received a response from Honor the Earth to his emails (Monday, January 23 and Monday, February 13) about donating BLUE's treasury funds to Honor the Earth. Pat will call Honor the Earth to ask if Honor the Earth will accept the funds from BLUE's treasury.

Meeting participants agreed to change the name of the organization to **Brainerd Lakes United Environmentalists (BLUE)**. The name change will go into full effect once Pat submits documents to the Minnesota Secretary of State's office and the Minnesota Attorney General's office dissolving Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment. Richard will update the BLUE website (brainerdblue.org) and Doug will update the BLUE Facebook page (facebook.com/BlueLakers/) to reflect the name change.

BLUE plans to hold a vigil outside the Brainerd Wells Fargo Bank on Tuesday, March 21. The BLUE vigil is part of environmental group Third Act's "Stop Dirty Banks: National Day of Action" on Tuesday, March 21. The "Stop Dirty Banks: National Day of Action" will demand banks, such as Wells Fargo, stop funding fossil fuels projects and instead support renewable energy projects. The Brainerd Wells Fargo Bank is located at 424 W. Washington Street, Brainerd. The vigil is scheduled to last from 4 to 5 p.m. Dean will send a notice to Third Act about the BLUE vigil to be posted on Third Act's website (thirdact.org). Dean and Pat will make signs for the vigil. Dean will send a notice about the BLUE vigil to the BLUE listserv. Doug will send a notice about the vigil to the *Brainerd Dispatch* and create a Facebook Event Invite for the vigil. Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) endorsed the BLUE vigil at the Monday, February 13 DSA meeting. DSA will encourage their members to join the vigil.

[The BLUE vigil went extremely well, despite poor weather. Around 12 people joined the vigil. Vigil participants included Dean, Pat, Doug, Judi, Richard, fellow BLUE member John Reynolds, DSA co-chair Julius Kapushinski, and Lakes Area Move to Amend members Joe and Dawn Stattine. The vigil received a mostly positive response from passing motorists. Many motorists honked their horns or gave thumbs up to support the vigil. Julius posted photos of the vigil on the BLA DSA Facebook page (facebook.com/BrainerdLakesAreaDSA) and Richard posted photos on the BLUE website. Dean sent vigil photos to Third Act.]

BLUE meeting participants agreed BLUE should hold a table at Arts in the Park this year. BLUE hosted tables at Arts in the Park in 2021 and 2022. The 2023 Arts in the Park will be held on Sunday, July 2 in Gregory Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a fee of \$125 to table at Arts in the Park. BLUE members will raise funds for the BLUE table at the Thursday, May 11 BLUE meeting. The deadline to apply for a table at Arts in the Park is Tuesday, May 23.

BLUE meeting participants discussed BLUE possibly holding a film presentation in the Brainerd public library's large conference room on Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day). The Brainerd public library is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The BLUE film presentation would need to be held during the time the library is open. Doug will call the Brainerd public library to ask if BLUE can reserve the large conference room for the BLUE Earth Day film presentation. [Doug called the library to reserve the large conference room. The large conference room is reserved for the BLUE Earth Day film presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22.]

Major updates after the Thursday, March 9 BLUE meeting:

- Honor the Earth informed Pat Honor the Earth can accept the donation of \$371.50 from BLUE's treasury. Pat mailed a check to Honor the Earth and closed the BLUE bank account on Monday, March 27.
- Pat mailed copies of the final Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment financial statement to the Minnesota Secretary of State's office and Minnesota Attorney General's office on Friday, March 31. A copy of the final Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment financial statement is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes.
- The dissolution process for Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment is essentially done. This will allow Brainerd Lakes United Environmentalists to focus on our environmental activism.

BLUE's next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. The BLUE meeting will be held online via the Zoom website. The BLUE meeting will last 40 minutes, the maximum amount of time Zoom allots for free meetings. A link to the April BLUE meeting will be sent out in the meeting notice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Minutes Submitted by Doug Olson

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) MARCH 9TH MEETING AGENDA

The March monthly meeting will be held on-line via the Zoom link provided in the cover email to which this agenda is attached. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please reply to the cover email if you have any questions or anything you wish to add to or change in the agenda.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Approve last month's minutes.

Discuss Honor the Earth's status in accepting the balance of BLUE's banking account.

Approve the group's new name: **Brainerd Lakes United Environmentalists (BLUE)**.

Discuss BLUE's participation in Third Act's Stop Dirty Banks Day of Action (info at thirdact.org/national-day-of-action/). BLUE will hold a vigil from 4 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday March 21st. The Brainerd Wells Fargo bank is located at 424 W. Washington Street, Brainerd.

Discuss the Group's path forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion to identify possible future events or actions for the group.

Treasure's report