

BLUE MINUTES – Thursday, April 8, 2021

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, April 8. The meeting was held on the Zoom website due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. The meeting lasted from 6:30 to 7:10 p.m. (Zoom allocates 40 minutes for free meetings). Dean Borgeson, Judi and Richard Schiller, Pat Scott, Steve Roe, Paula Overby, and Doug Olson joined the meeting.

Karen Williams left active BLUE membership and resigned as BLUE secretary in March. BLUE appreciates Karen's work. The BLUE meeting elected Doug Olson as BLUE secretary.

The BLUE/Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, April 3 went well. Around 10 or 11 people joined the vigil.

The DSA caravan to the Water Protector Camp Migizi, located near Sawyer on the Fond du Lac Reservation, on Sunday, March 21 went very well. 10 vehicles from Brainerd and 5 vehicles from the Twin Ports (Duluth/Superior) DSA joined the caravan. The caravan provided food, money, and firewood to Camp Migizi. BLUE and DSA members Larry Fisk and Gayle Nielsen joined the caravan. Photos from the caravan can be viewed at the Brainerd Lakes Area DSA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BrainerdLakesAreaDSA>

The Saturday, April 17 Stop Line 3 vigil will be held at the intersection of Sixth and Washington Streets, Brainerd, near the Sawmill Inn. The vigil will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Vigil participants will meet at the vigil site. Signs and flags are available for vigil participants or vigil participants may bring signs to the vigil. Vigil participants will wear masks and practice social distancing.

BLUE decided to continue holding the Stop Line 3 vigils at their current location and time rather than hold a vigil outside the Brainerd Wells Fargo bank from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. because DSA members preferred holding the Stop Line 3 vigils at their current time and location. The Stop Line 3 vigils are held on the first and third Saturday of every month near the Sawmill Inn from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Brainerd Lakes Area DSA will hold a vigil in front of the Brainerd Wells Fargo, located at 424 Washington Street, Brainerd near Wendy's, on Monday, April 12 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The vigil will demand Wells Fargo end its financial support for Line 3. Larry shared this information with Doug. Doug, who is on the DSA listserv, will forward this information to the BLUE and Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) listservs once it becomes available.

BLUE received an application from Brainerd Community Action for the Arts in the Park Community Corner event on Sunday, June 27. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. BLUE plans to host a booth at Arts in the Park. Booths at Arts in the Park cost \$100. Pat will use funds from the BLUE treasury to pay for the booth.

Richard, Judi, Dean, and Pat said they could volunteer at the BLUE booth. Doug may volunteer for part of the last shift after finishing work.

The BLUE brochure will be updated for the booth. The brochure will mention events BLUE held in 2020 and 2021, including the Climate Justice vigil on Thursday, September 10, 2020 and the BLUE/DSA Stop Line 3 vigils, which began on Saturday, January 30, 2021 and are ongoing. BLUE members will discuss updating the brochure in more detail at the Thursday, May 13 BLUE meeting.

The Earth Day Celebration will be merged into the Stop Line 3 vigil on Saturday, April 17. BLUE members may bring Earth Day signs to the vigil.

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, a religious environmental organization, will hold an online climate action meeting with U.S. Representative Pete Stauber on Monday, April 12. The meeting with Representative Stauber

begins at 4 p.m. (A training session precedes the meeting at 3:30 p.m.) A RSVP form and link to the meeting can be found in an email Dean forwarded to the BLUE listserv on Thursday, April 8. The meeting will be a good opportunity to ask questions about Representative Stauber's poor environmental track record. (Thanks to Lakes Area Move to Amend member Joe Stattine for sharing information about the meeting).

Dean and Doug received an email from Larry about an online educational presentation on Line 3 hosted by Minnesota DSA on Monday, April 19 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the online meeting. A link to the Zoom meeting will be provided when it becomes available. (Challenging the construction of Line 3 is a top priority for Minnesota DSA).

The BLUE monthly meeting on Thursday, May 13 will be held in-person. BLUE members at the meeting felt comfortable holding an in-person meeting because everyone at the meeting and most other BLUE members are fully vaccinated. Meeting attendees will wear masks and practice social distancing.

The Thursday, May 13 BLUE meeting will be held in Gregory Park at 6:30 p.m. Gregory Park is located at 511 North 5th Street, Brainerd. If bad weather prevents an outdoor meeting at Gregory Park, the BLUE meeting will be held in the Brainerd United Church of Christ (UCC) Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The UCC is located at 415 Juniper Street, Brainerd.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Agenda

Thursday April 8th 6:30 pm Monthly Meeting

The April monthly meeting will once again be held on-line due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please use the Zoom link in the cover letter for this agenda to join the meeting. These meetings are restricted to 40 minutes by Zoom.

Old Business:

- Election to replace Karen as the BLUE Secretary.

Please tender your nomination before or at the meeting if you are interested in being a candidate.

- Discussion of possible resistance to the ongoing construction of Line 3:

Report on the BLUE - BLA/DSA cohosted vigils from 3:00 – 4:30 pm on Saturday April 3rd.

Pat volunteered to prepare additional “Stop Line 3’ placards for the event.

Report on the Twin Ports and Brainerd Lakes Area DSA’s joint caravans to Camp Migizi on Sunday March 21st.

Discussion on whether to hold the Saturday April 17th vigil at 11:00 am by the Wells Fargo Bank or to continue to hold the vigil at 6th & Washington from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

BLUE’s has received the Brainerd Community Action’s ‘Arts in the Park’ application for the Saturday Jun 27th event (see attachment to this agenda’s cover letter). Review and discuss.

The 51st annual Earth Day celebration will be on Thursday April 22nd this year, BLUE will observe this milestone at the regular ‘Stop Line 3’ vigil on Saturday April 17th.

New Business:

- Treasure’s report