

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE)

Agenda

Thursday June 10th 6:30 pm Monthly Meeting

The June monthly meeting will be held outdoors in the SW sector of Gregory Park, weather permitting. The event will be moved across the street to UCC if the conditions warrant.

Old Business:

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

The Stop Line 3 vigil scheduled for Saturday June 5th was postponed until Saturday June 19th at 3:00 pm due to the heat.

Future vigils will be held once a month on the first Saturday, with the 3rd Saturday kept in reserve should a conflict arise. The time and location will remain the same.

BLUE has paid the \$100 entry fee and committed to manning a table at the Brainerd Community Action's 'Arts in the Park' in Gregory Park from 10 am until 4 pm on Sunday Jun 27th. Pat has volunteered to be there from 10 am until noon and Dean will be available to fill one of the other 2 hour slots. We need volunteers to help man the booth for the remainder of the time and/or to join Dean or Pat during their slots. The BLUE brochure has been updated, donation baskets, sign-up sheets, environmental literature, a card table and two lawn chairs will be provided available.

- Discussion to identify possible future BLUE events or actions.

BLUE will join BACP in hosting a float in the Brainerd 4th of July parade once again this year.

Other ideas?

New Business:

- Treasure's report

BLUE MINUTES – Thursday, May 13th, 2021

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, May 13. The meeting was held in Gregory Park. Pat Scott, Dean Borgeson, and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

Meeting participants discussed the updated BLUE brochures. Pat did an excellent job updating the brochures.

Meeting participants agreed to list Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) as a partner organization on the BLUE brochure. BLUE appreciates working with DSA on the Stop Line 3 vigils. The brochure will note BLUE is a non-partisan organization willing to work with political parties and organizations which share our commitment to protecting the environment. (DSA is not a political party but endorses candidates for elected office).

Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society and Brainerd Area Lakes Associations can also be listed as partner organizations on the BLUE brochure because they co-hosted the 2018 and 2020 local candidates' environmental forums with BLUE.

BLUE will host our booth at Arts in the Park Community Corner event on Sunday, June 27. Arts in the Park Community Corner event will take place in Gregory Park. Gregory Park is located at 511 North Fifth Street, Brainerd. The BLUE booth will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meeting attendees discussed literature, in addition to the BLUE brochures, BLUE could use at our Arts in the Park Community Corner booth. Among the other literature the booth could offer could be literature explaining why Line 3 should be stopped and "10 Easy Ways to Help the Environment" literature. (BLUE had the latter pamphlet at our Earth Day Celebration booth in 2018 and booth outside the Tornstrom Auditorium during the Jeannette Rankin play in 2019).

In all likelihood, there will be three shifts for the BLUE booth: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 12 to 2 p.m., and 2 to 4 p.m. Pat will volunteer for the first shift from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Doug will volunteer for part of the third shift (2 to 4 p.m.) from 3:30 to 4 p.m. (Doug works until 3 p.m.) Richard and Judi Schiller and Dean plan to volunteer at the booth.

Anyone interested in volunteering for a shift at the BLUE booth is encouraged to sign up. Please email Dean at dborgeson@crosslake.net to let him know you are interested in volunteering at the BLUE booth.

BLUE booth volunteers are encouraged to bring chairs to the booth. If anyone has a table BLUE could use for the booth, they could bring it. (Brainerd Community Action, the host of Arts in the Park Community Corner, provides a space for participating groups but groups bring their own tables and chairs). Pat has a card table which could be used for the BLUE booth.

DSA members at the Tuesday, May 11 online DSA meeting agreed the Stop Line 3 vigils should be reduced from twice to once a month. They agreed the vigils should be held on the first Saturday of the month near the Sawmill Inn from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with the third Saturday being a backup date in case bad weather forces the vigil scheduled on the first Saturday to be cancelled.

BLUE meeting participants agreed with DSA on the new schedule for the Stop Line 3 vigils. Hopefully, reducing the number of vigils will boost vigil turnout and reduce burnout.

BLUE plans to join Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade on Sunday, July 4 if BACP marches in the parade. BLUE and BACP marched together in the 2018 and 2019 Brainerd Fourth of July parades. (The 2020 Brainerd Fourth of July parade was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic).

BACP will hold an Adopt a Highway cleanup on Saturday, May 22. Cleanup volunteers will meet at the former Cabin Fever restaurant parking lot, located off Highway 76 north of Little Falls, at 1 p.m. to plan the cleanup. The cleanup takes about two hours. Cleanup volunteers are encouraged to read the information posted at <http://www.brainerdpeace.org/highway.html> for more information about the cleanup. Everyone is welcome to join the BACP Adopt a Highway cleanup. If bad weather forces the cleanup to be cancelled, a new date for the cleanup will be set at the BACP meeting on Monday, June 7.

Honor the Earth, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, MN350, and several other environmental organizations are planning four days of action against Line 3 called Treaty People Gathering from Saturday, June 5 through Tuesday, June 8. Treaty People Gathering will include protests and civil disobedience. Treaty People Gathering is meant to impede Line 3 construction, raise public awareness about the dangers of Line 3, and pressure the Biden Administration and courts to halt Line 3 construction. More information about the four days of action can be found at https://treatypeoplegathering.com/?fbclid=IwAR0tPFDeH1HCVeWgH1Cwq5mZ-WH2v_pWDIKqwE5JsWvpIv0Unbtp-bWjobk Many DSA members throughout Minnesota plan to join Treaty People Gathering. BLUE members who can join Treaty People Gathering are encouraged to join the event. Treaty People Gathering will draw Water Protectors and environmentalists from throughout the U.S., Canada, and many other nations.

BLUE meeting participants discussed possibly changing the BLUE monthly meeting date and time. Changing the meeting date and time may increase turnout at the BLUE monthly meetings. BLUE might change our meeting date to the first Saturday of the month. The BLUE meeting would be held at 2 p.m. and last until the start of the Stop Line 3 vigil at 3 p.m. BLUE members will discuss possibly changing our monthly meeting date and time at the Thursday, June 10 BLUE meeting.

BLUE and DSA will hold the first Stop Line 3 vigil under the new vigil schedule on Saturday, June 5. The vigil will be held at the intersection of Sixth and Washington Streets, Brainerd, near the Sawmill Inn. The vigil is scheduled to last from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

BLUE will hold our next monthly meeting on Thursday, June 10. The BLUE meeting will be held at the southwest corner of Gregory Park. The BLUE meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. If bad weather prevents a 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 Fellowship Hall is located in the downstairs section of the UCC. The UCC is located at 415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, near the southwest corner of Gregory Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

BLUE Meeting Notes Submitted by Doug Olson