

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) Sept. 8TH MEETING AGENDA

The September 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 across the street 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:

- Report on BLUE's social gathering on Saturday August 13th.
- Report on Honor the Earth's final Shell City Campground Stop Line #3 reunion held on the weekend of August 26-28th.
- Discuss holding a Water Protectors Solidarity vigil in Brainerd as brought up at the June meeting.
- Discuss this month's September 23rd 'Global Climate Strike' & September 25th 'Global Day of Climate Action'.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) July 14TH MEETING MINUTES

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. The meeting took place in Gregory Park. Dean Borgeson and Doug Olson joined the BLUE meeting.

The BLUE tabling at the 'Arts in the Park' festival on Sunday, June 26 went very well. Ten people signed up to be on the BLUE listserv. The BLUE table received a small amount of donations (\$6) from visitors, in addition to \$110 received in the BLUE P.O. Box earlier in June. Everyone who stopped at the BLUE table supported BLUE's environmental activism. BLUE members Dean Borgeson, Donna Bowen, and Pat Scott volunteered at the BLUE table. BLUE plans to table at next year's 'Arts in the Park' festival. The festival is usually held in Gregory Park on the last Sunday of June.

The Brainerd Fourth of July parade, held on Monday, July 4, went very well. Seven people joined the Brainerd Democracy Alliance parade unit: Gayle Nielsen, Larry Fisk, Gayle and Larry's friend Mary Beth Revak from Charlottesville, Virginia, Pat Scott, Judi and Richard Schiller, and Doug Olson. The parade unit consisted of BLUE and Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP) members with Larry and Gayle being Brainerd Lakes Area Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) members and Doug being a Lakes Area Move to Amend (LAMTA) member. The Brainerd Democracy Alliance parade unit received an overwhelmingly positive response from parade watchers. Almost no one made negative comments or gestures. Many parade watchers clapped, cheered, waved, and gave peace signs to support the parade unit. A few parade watchers joined in signing the parade unit's pro-peace chants. There were more parade watchers at this year's Brainerd Fourth of July parade than there were for the last several years. Everyone in the parade unit had a wonderful time. The shorter parade route made walking in the parade easier. Hopefully, Brainerd Community Action, which organizes the Brainerd Fourth of July parade, will retain the shorter parade route for future Brainerd Fourth of July parades.

Judge Leslie Mae Metzen acquitted Water Protector Shanai Matteson on the second day of her jury trial in the Aitkin County Courthouse on Thursday, July 14. Judge Metzen acquitted Matteson because there was absolutely no evidence she broke the law. Matteson had been charged with conspiracy to obstruct critical infrastructure and trespassing after she gave a speech on January 9, 2021, supporting peaceful civil disobedience against Line 3. Matteson's acquittal is a major victory for Water Protectors and freedom of speech. At least 200 Water Protectors still face charges stemming from protesting the Line 3 project in late 2020 and 2021. Honor the Earth is holding vigils outside the Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena County Courthouses calling for all charges to be dropped. A petition can be signed at the Drop the Charges website calling for Governor Tim Walz to drop the charges against Water Protectors and for State Attorney General Keith Ellison to be appointed Special Prosecutor for any remaining cases to avoid conflict of interest as law enforcement worked very closely with Enbridge during Line 3 construction. <https://www.dropline3charges.com/>

Dean and Doug 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, BACP, DSA, Brainerd Lakes Pride, and LAMTA. The Water Protectors Solidarity vigil could be held in the fall, when more people might be available for a vigil. The vigil could be held on a Saturday to increase turnout for the vigil. Additional Water Protectors solidarity vigil ideas can be discussed at the August BLUE meeting.

Pat prepared a Fiscal Year 2021 Statement for BLUE. The Statement is attached to the BLUE meeting minutes. As of the June 30, 2022, the BLUE treasury has \$352. Below is a Fiscal Year 2022 Statement for BLUE Pat prepared:

| FY 2022 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| INCOME | | EXPENSES | |
| Bank balance 7-1- 21 | \$350 | P.O. Box #1205 rent | \$134 |
| Donations recieved | \$286 | Honor the Earth | \$50 |
| | | MMUJSA | \$50 |
| Other | | 501c4 registration fee | \$50 |
| Total Income | \$636 | Total Expenses | \$284 |
| Bank Balance 6-30-22 | | | \$352 |
| Provided by Patricia Scott, Treasurer | | | |

Dean mentioned possibly holding the August BLUE meeting at his home in Crosslake. Holding a social as part of the meeting may bolster meeting turnout. The meeting would be held on a Saturday. Dean plans to send out more information about the August BLUE meeting in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. BLUE Meeting Minutes Submitted by Doug Olson