

BRAINERD LAKERS UNITED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (BLUE) DECEMBER 8TH MEETING MINUTES

Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment (BLUE) held our monthly meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 7 p.m. The meeting took place online via the Zoom website. Dean Borgeson, Doug Olson, and Pat Scott joined the online BLUE meeting.

BLUE meeting participants discussed the best ways for BLUE to resolve our tax issues with the IRS. A Roggenkamp Co. accountant recommended to Pat BLUE legally disband. BLUE is no longer recognized as a non-profit organization by the IRS. Pat outlined the steps needed for BLUE to disband. Essentially, the steps are:

- BLUE members vote on a resolution to dissolve. The resolution to dissolve includes a plan of dissolution. The resolution to dissolve is recorded in the BLUE meeting minutes.
- A notice of intent to dissolve is filed. Assets may not be transferred for 45 days.
- Run 4 weekly notices for potential creditors in *The Brainerd Dispatch*. Creditors have 90 days to respond.
- After 45 days, inform the Minnesota attorney general of the transfer of assets. Assets must be transferred to a tax-exempt entity or the government.
- File Articles of Dissolution with the Minnesota Secretary of State. The Minnesota Secretary of State will file a Certificate of Dissolution within 30 days.

As Pat discussed with Dean and Doug, some of these steps can be avoided if BLUE transfers our assets to a legally recognized non-profit. The legally recognized non-profit will then provide a certificate to the Minnesota Attorney General. If BLUE transferred our assets (the \$394.50 currently in the BLUE treasury) to a legally recognized non-profit, then BLUE would not need to run notices in *The Brainerd Dispatch* about our legal dissolution. Meeting participants agreed running such notices would be undesirable because it would give the impression BLUE no longer exists. A notice will be sent to the IRS about BLUE dissolving. **BLUE will continue to exist, but probably under a different name. The group still plans to continue our environmental activism.**

Meeting participants discussed which environmental organizations BLUE should transfer our assets to. The four organizations meeting participants thought could possibly receive the assets are 'MN 350.org', 'Honor the Earth', 'The 100% Campaign', and 'Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light'. All are reputable environmental organizations. All oppose Line 3. Dean will send out a survey via the BLUE listserv asking BLUE members which one of the four organizations BLUE should transfer our assets to. The organization receiving the most votes will be asked by BLUE if our assets can be transferred to their organization. Pat plans to write up a resolution to dissolve for the Thursday, January 12 online BLUE meeting. Meeting participants will vote on the resolution to dissolve. BLUE will close our P.O. Box and bank account as part of the process of dissolving. Eventually, a new P.O. Box and bank account might be set up under an individual's name. The successor organization to BLUE will not file to become a non-profit.

BLUE members discussed the mid-term elections, including Democratic U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock's victory over Republican challenger Herschel Walker in the Georgia U.S. Senate run-off election on Tuesday, December 6. Republicans underperformed in the mid-term elections because of the reactionary candidates, including Walker, they ran. As noted in the November BLUE meeting minutes, environmentalists will need to pressure Congress and the state legislatures to enact pro-environment policies.

Pat mentioned the environmental organization 'Third Act' holding a National Day of Action on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The Day of Action will demand banks no longer fund polluting projects. The goal, according to Third Act, is "to get the banks under control to get the climate under control." Many environmental organizations support Third Act's National Day of Action, including 350.org. BLUE may want to consider supporting the National Day of Action and possibly holding a vigil in solidarity. This is an issue BLUE members can discuss in further detail during the January, February, and March BLUE meetings. For more information about Third Act and the National Day of Action on March 21, 2023, please visit thirdact.org

BLUE's next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12 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. BLUE meetings will be held online through at least April. A link to the January 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) DECEMBER 8TH MEETING AGENDA

The December 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 3rd 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:

- Discuss an option to pursue in regard to IRS communications on BLUE's non-profit status. (i.e., disbanding, transferring assets to another non-profit, or some other option)
- Discuss BLUE's path forward if a decision to disband is not undertaken. (i.e., P.O. box retention, bank account retention, etc.)
- Update on next spring's "Story of Plastic" documentary showing.
- Discussion of 2022 GA Senatorial election results.
- Update on BLUE's support for the 2023 DSA mass transit initiative in Brainerd.

NEW BUSINESS:

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