

## Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 1/10/12

Present: (not a complete list) Mechelle Coppock, Chris Cozadd, Jim Custer, Julie Custer, Melissa Dana, Jeff Englander, Julie Griffin, Kathleen Norman, Kathleen O'Connell, Kathy Pala, Colleen Parker, Maria Ross, Millie Sjoberg, Steve Valley, Jock Whittlesey, Monique Wong

### **I. Presentation of Eagle Scout Project Proposal** – Philip Whittlesey

Creating a natural habitat to attract native wildlife at Gulf Branch Nature Center.

All voted in favor to approve concept.

### **II. Approval of November Meeting Notes** – approved.

### **III. Treasurer's Report** – Kathleen O'Connell

Review of Budget Committee meeting notes. Vote to approve new language in red (see file). All voted in favor.

Other item for vote: reimbursement requests. The committee recommends the policy should be that any out of pocket expenses of \$50 or less should be presented to the Treasurer for approval before purchase. Anything greater than \$50 should be presented to the Parent Committee. Campout food costs will be exempted.

Started to discuss reimbursements to parents for driving to campouts, but tabled for another meeting.

Discussed need to pay for High Adventure activities (Sea Base, Philmont, etc.) up front. All voted in favor to require this.

Current income: \$6,272

Current expenses: \$1,826

Balance: \$6,600 (ski trip collected and paid 50%, still have \$2800 to pay)

### **IV. Old Business**

#### 1. Troop Size/Recruiting – Jeff Englander

Jeff Englander expects five new boys to join. Melissa stated that there is then no worry about growing too fast right now.

#### 2. Fundraising – Steve Valley

##### A. Mistletoe:

\$1,213 made on mistletoe

New record set on sales this year (2009 - 93 packets, 2010 - 160 packets, 2011 - 300 packets).

##### B. Pretzels:

Free to us from American Legion, so all profit. Will sell at metro stations next week.

\$5 per bag x 240 bags = \$1200

Boys will get Scout Bucks for pretzel and mistletoe sales.

Preston Custer has volunteered to be part of Fundraising Committee.

C. Boys ideas for fundraising:

Steve brought up Founding Scouts ideas for fundraising from 12/20 PCM.  
Melissa asked to table that until the next meeting.

D. Mulch:

There are lower cost companies than Merrifield. With spider forklift to load/unload, it would be \$2.40/bag. Merrifield is 5 cents more per bag. Question: do we want to save 5 cents or stick with Merrifield?

Vote: all in favor to stick with Merrifield.

## V. New Business

1. Rechartering – Melissa

Skip this for now.

2. Board of Review – Melissa

Volunteers?

3. Troop Chaplain and Chaplain's Aide – Melissa

Jim Custer volunteers. This is important to Michael Keays, who wanted ordained person. But that is not required by BSA. Jim wants to be POC for any Scout who wants to earn a religious emblem. (For this, a Scout works through his church, and the chaplain signs off.) Michael would also like more reverence, and boy-led services at the campouts.

Kathleen – don't we have to resolve the Reverence Committee issue to move forward on this?

Jim – BSA prayers are non-denominational.

Melissa – will you work with the boys on Reverence Committee to re-present this to the PLC?

Jim – yes, we'll shoot for March.

Vote: all in favor of this plan.

Chaplain's Aide – James Coppock?

Kathy Pala – point of having services is not ecumenical, but to provide many different religions to boys. It is important that boys aren't singled out as the Protestant one, or the Muslim one, etc.

Jim Custer – historical point - this troop was approached by The Falls Church as it was forming, asking to sponsor the troop. We declined, and took a conscious decision not to be affiliated with any religious group.

4. Scout Representative to the Parent Committee – Melissa

SPL or Junior Assistant SM should be the liaison to our Parent Committee.

No voting rights, but can express the boys' opinions and report back to the boys.

Steve – so long as it is on a rotating basis. Should be Star class and above.

5. Review of Troop Handbook –

Chris Cozadd, Colleen Parker and Kathleen Norman volunteered.

Steve – originally had a Scout Primer and a Troop Handbook.

Have a sign-off sheet at the end that Scout and parents must sign to confirm have read and agree.

Should be done at rechartering.

Jim – could just say “Follow the BSA protocol” and be done with it. But that is not why we formed this troop. We want to present our own unique philosophy.

How does Handbook exist now? On website.

Jim – will send Word document he has to Kathleen.

Monique – when boys apply, make reading and signing off part of the process.

Chris – have addendum and hyperlinks to much of the current text.

#### 6. Eagle-required Merit Badges – Melissa

What is up with this? We have lost many months without any courses.

Monique – we need to get back on cycle, but boys should do on own if they are really interested.

Jim – Mechelle Coppock is currently working on this as the new MB Coordinator.

We will offer two at a time until we catch up.

Monique – Give Mechelle a slot on the next agenda to report on her MB work.

#### 7. Leave No Trace – Chris Cozadd

SMS need a policy from the Parent Committee. Salamanders came home after the last campout.

Monique – this policy already exists.

Voted to confirm that “Parent Committee expects SMs to follow the Leave No Trace policy of BSA.”