

## Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 1/13/13

Present: Mechelle Coppock, Chris Cozadd, Jim Custer, Julie Custer, Melissa Dana, Jeff Englander, John Fraas, Alvin Furtner, Andy Gilmour, Michael Keays, Kathleen Norman, Steve Valley

**I. Approval of Parent Committee Meeting Minutes** – Melissa  
October and December 2012 minutes – all voted to approve.

**II. Eagle Project Presentation** – Ian Griffin  
Create a new picnic site at Wolftrap National Park, March 2013.  
All approved.

**III. Treasurer's Report** – Mechelle for Kathleen O.  
Troop account balance at last month's meeting was \$15,476. Current balance is \$15,623. Due to cancellation of the ski trip, we expect to receive \$1,000 refunded to Troop account. The remaining \$500 of the ski trip deposit at Seven Springs resort has been applied as a deposit toward the dates of January 24-27, 2014. The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on January 27 to finalize the 2013 budget, which will be presented to the Parent Committee for approval in February.

**IV. Recent Breach of Troop Philosophy** – Melissa  
At December Open House, the PLC planned activities, which the adults changed significantly. It seems to have been a misunderstanding. From the boys' perspective, they put a lot of time and planning into this, and then at least four adults came in and changed it. Melissa asked at the ASM meeting that the two sides communicate and police each other.

SV: We tell the boys to pick something to work on, but then there is no connection between them and the adults they are working with. Latitude begins and ends at the PLC. Then it is out of sight out of mind for the boys, and the adults are left with the project. Finally, the boys come back at the event and say "no, that's not the way we wanted to do it." It is being informed by the boys after the fact that is the problem for me. We need communication and action from the boys earlier, before the event.

JE: Want to be sure we preserve the chain of command.

CC: This is not a troop for the adults. The boys need to be in charge.

SV: But if a parent has stepped up, we need to respect their time and effort. I don't want to take it over, but I want the boys to show up. The boys often don't understand the effort that is going into it on adult's part (e.g. ski trip or mistletoe sales).

MD: Issue is what can the boys do if adults step in and take over? They know you very politely say "Mr. ASM, we have been discussing this." Boys talked to adult, but why didn't they go to Scoutmaster with their problem?

JE: It is a communications issue all around.

SV: This wouldn't have happened if there was a give and take. If I am in the middle and working on a project, the boys have to support it and be in on it. We don't have that connection to cross-pollinate adult ideas with boy ideas.

MC: Re: parent assistance, PLC needs to know what adults are linked to a project. For example, if an adult is asked to plan a campout, and the boys don't communicate with that parent and make other plans, the system will not work.

CC: We need the Scouts to take responsibility.

MK: Often try to e-mail the Scouts, but they don't get back to you.

SV: We need communication from the Scouts.

JF: I am doing the September campout, but I don't know if there is a boy assigned. Now I know to see the SPL to communicate that I am adult, who is Scout assigned. This is a Scoutmaster issue.

MD: If boys have made plans, we should do our best to accommodate them. Say yes as much as possible.

CC: We adults should lead by questions, and hope they will take it in the right direction.

MD: Sometimes boys learn if they bite off more than they can chew.

#### **V. Mistletoe Sales – Steve**

Made \$1,200. Great for one-week project.

#### **VI. Recruiting Presentation – Melissa**

The issue has come up of what kind of message we want to put forth at the recruitment events. Some thought too much focus on Scouting as ticket into college, and not enough on the inherent rewards, such as developing leadership skills, etc.

SV: Whoever takes over Open House next year should start presentation from scratch.

KN: It was only one comment at the last PCM, not an attack on the college focus. A lot of people value that. Just make it more nuanced, discussing all the different benefits of Scouting.

MK: How about Troop 349 stickers?

SV: Just priced bumper stickers.

#### **VII. Proposal of Subsidy for High Adventure – Jim**

Budget committee has difference of opinion. Our fundraising hopefully will support our outings. We have been providing campout subsidies at \$100 – 150 per campout. There is room to grow that. There is also room to subsidize High Adventure outings.

CC: all expenses paid?

JC: 100% or 80% - who knows? Ideally, Scout can earn 20-30% in Scout Bucks, rest from balance of fundraising.

MC: Can you sketch out your idea in writing?

JC: I want the involved parents here at the meetings to discuss.

KN/JF: Put out announcement in advance of PCM, tell folks if they want to participate, they must come to that meeting.

**VIII. Mulch – Steve**

Last year, ordered 3,600 bags, sold 3,330. Netted \$6,500.

Think we can be more efficient, and don't need to order more bags. Will order 3,600 again. Usually \$2.45/bag and we sell for \$4.55/bag. Still buying from Merrifield.

Dates: Jan 22 kick-off, hand out packets.

March 16-17 delivery.

**IX. Recruiting – Jeff**

We have identified six Webelos who will most likely join. We will stop there.

**X. Scoutmaster - Jim**

One year is plenty to be Scoutmaster, so he would like to step down. He would like the Parent Committee to approach another ASM to be SM, starting in March. PCM should look at what is important for the troop. All ASMs would be happy to help the troop by taking this on if chosen. PCM says here is what we are looking for.

MD: Is March the best time to turn over?

JC: Just not over the summer.

MD: Then we have two months to discuss. We will start now.

Meeting went to closed session. ASMs left. Meeting off the record so no notes.