

Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 12/1/12, 3:00 pm

Present: Mechelle Coppock, Jason Cothorn, Chris Cozadd, Melissa Dana, William DeVan, Kathleen Norman

I. Treasurer's Report – Mechelle for Kathleen O.

The Budget Committee met last week to review income and expenses. Will meet again in the New Year to finalize the 2013 budget. In 2012 the budget was not far off, and we under spent a bit. Income continues to increase through our successful fundraisers. Jim and Steve agree that funds should be made more accessible to the boys.

MD: Jim's goal is to get to the point where the troop pays for everything.

KN: The surplus now is so much higher than it was in past years (\$16,000 vs. \$2,000). Why is that?

MD: It is not really a surplus. There are anticipated expenses, plus \$3,000 in Scout Bucks, \$2,000 extra for campouts, plus \$2,000 more in income than was anticipated. Discussion of Scout Bucks: Money has accumulated, boys may begin spending it.

William: What are the parameters for use?

MC: Appropriate Scout-related expenses.

MD: Who should write up an explanation of this? Parent Committee or Kathleen O? Melissa will ask Kathleen O.

Discussion of assisting boys in need.

CC: If last year we said that we have this money set aside to partially subsidize campouts, who implements using that money to decrease the price of a campout? Do the ASMs planning the campouts and deciding upon the price charged now to reduce the cost by some amount?

MC: I did so when I planned campouts, but I don't know if others do.

MD: I will add this to notes I am keeping on expense issues needing improvement in the new budget.

MC: Does anyone have an issue with using Scout Bucks toward High Adventure activities? None did.

And to fund adults helping out on High Adventure activities?

MD: a lot of people don't go on the High Adventure trips because they can't afford it (for example, Philmont at \$2,000 and Sea Base at \$1,600).

MC: But the parent is giving up vacation time to participate.

WD: This should be a fixed line in the budget.

MD: Also had discussed which adults should have their Summer Camp participation covered. Decided all would be covered. Should be the same for High Adventure.

MC: I don't agree because the cost of High Adventure is so much greater. This should not be decided upon in the same discussion/policy. At Summer Camp, the parents are glorified babysitters – it is not as rewarding for the parent as HA.

CC: But they are giving up their vacation time.

MC: Summer camp is already decided. Let's not link it to High Adventure.

MD: I think it is the same thing.

JC: They are similar. If you commit for a whole week at Summer Camp, then you get X amount covered.

MC: High Adventure is a contained expense in and of itself. Summer Camp is handled like any other campout.

MD: Vote now or consider for the budget next year?

MC: Will impact Sea Base this year.

CC: Don't feel clear enough to vote.

KN: Budget Committee could discuss and make a proposal to the Parent Committee.

II. Advancement Update – Melissa for Erik Autor

Erik will print out entire troop advancement report every six months and give to the boys. Before the boy can do a Scoutmaster Conference, he must have all of his records up to date.

Discussion of older Scouts having many out-of-date records.

MD: We need to talk to David and Erik, say this is the problem, what do you want to do? How can Scouts stay up-to-date on records?

CC: Perhaps this is a burdensome solution to what is only a short-term problem? If all the younger boys are now up-to-date, then the problem should go away soon.

MD: will ask David and Erik to come to the next PCM. Need more than one person to do David's job (Troopmaster Coordinator).

MC: Need to create deadlines for BORs and COHs.

III. Community Service – Melissa

Need to fill this important position.

MC: How about we assign it to the Eagle Scouts? Have them do a few per year.

Must serve the community, not the troop.

JC: The troop's main pitch at the Open House is that this will get you into college, but it should be more about leadership and service.

MD: work on the focus of community service. Our Falls Church Homeless Shelter is not in need. Union Shelter, inner-city DC, would have much greater use of our assistance.

MC: point the Scouts in the direction of gathering data on options.

IV. Merit Badge Worksheets – Mechelle

Some boys are having trouble. Do they need to keep the worksheets after they receive the merit badge?

MC: The worksheets are a tool. They are not required in attaining the MB. If the Merit Badge Counselor feels the Scout understands the material, that is sufficient.