

Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 9/9/12, 3:00 pm

Present: Mechelle Coppock, Chris Cozadd, Jim Custer, Julie Custer, Melissa Dana, John Fraas, Andy Gilmour, Kathleen Norman, Kathleen O'Connell, Jim Pala, Steve Valley

I. Treasurer's Report – Kathleen O.

Review of balance. No large expenses imminent.

CC: Is Scout Bucks going to affect this?

KO: No, Scout Bucks are included in the budget as a line item.

II. Merit Badge Counselor's Report – Mechelle

Mechelle is working to get Communications merit badge leader to start in October. Peter Parker's grandfather, Colonel Parker, has offered to teach this, wants to address the PLC.

John F: someone spoke to boys last Tuesday, may have been him?

MC: Need folks to coordinate with me please. I will talk to Wally to see if this was Col. Parker.

Melissa D: why does he need to present to PLC? Merit badge counselors haven't done this before.

Jim C: That is okay with me if he does it at the next PLC.

III. Merit Badge Cycle – Mechelle

Mechelle: Jeff E. sent proposal re: 2-year merit badge instruction cycle (see handout attached to agenda). Want to have a master list for 2-year cycle. But this one from Jeff is different from the spiral cycle from Steve V.

Steve: Use Jeff's, then when final, Steve will update spiral cycle.

Melissa D: Is the 2-year cycle in the Troop Handbook?

KN and CC: will check.

Melissa D: what is status of Handbook?

Chris C: We need to finish and give to Steve to post on troop website.

Steve: Keep handbook as a pdf, don't make it a live document. We can set up a pdf that is searchable.

Chris C: I'll help get format back to hyperlinks to enable searching.

Mechelle C: I can help with that too.

Re: merit badges, want to point out that Fairfax County offers merit badges. See their Parktakes brochure for listings.

Melissa D: let's vote to approve Jeff E's 2-year merit badge cycle.

MC: move to vote to approve Jeff's proposed 2-year merit badge cycle, with addition of future changes as deemed necessary by the Parent Committee.

Vote: all in favor.

IV. New Parent Folder – Mechelle

MC: to point parents to information we want them to know. Showed her proposed folder. Add parent and Scout membership form, and ask for acknowledgement from them that they have received this.

Chris C: when to physically give this to new families?

Jim C: can be receipt for when they pay dues.

MC: I pictured giving it to them when they received Scout uniform and Handbook. Don't have copy of Handbook with this, but point them to the website. And tell them we can let them borrow hard copy of Handbook in binder if desired.

John F: against having people sign for this.

MC: stems from last year when 13 Scouts joined and we lost track of lots of paper.

Jim C: doesn't need signature. But the new families must understand the Philosophy of the troop. If troop stays at approx. 30 families, we don't have lots of room for kids who take and parents that don't give. We need to communicate this before or as they join!

Kathleen N: key is getting this new folder to them at the beginning. Exactly who and when will they get it?

Chris C: I will give it to them at the same time as I take their check.

John F: If we have a Parent Orientation, that is where you can communicate this.

Kathleen N: in original handbook, had page at the end for parents to sign to say had read it and understood it.

Steve V: parents and Scout would sign.

Melissa D: I like Mechelle's parent folder. Let's discuss more next time.

Kathleen N: but Chris needs to know now if there is new family joining.

John F: take vote now.

Chris: doesn't like signature requirement. Do folder, but don't require signature.

James P: motion to do folders without requiring signature.

Vote: all in favor.

V. Parent Committee Positions – Melissa

Melissa: we need someone to reach out to new families and the "not yet involved" parents. Should we let empty positions stay empty, or insist that every family contribute? (see list of Parent Committee positions attached to agenda)

One new parent originally said she'd take on Parent Coordinator, but then didn't want to have to force/nag parents to take positions. If it was our official policy that one parent must register, train and contribute, it would be easier for Parent Coordinator to do job.

Chris C: Darren Duke has offered to help out however he can.

Jim C: ask him to take Parent Coordinator job for one year, then ASM if wants.

Melissa D: I'll send e-mail to new parents and under-involved parents.

Discussion of other parents who may be willing to volunteer.

VI. ASM Report – John Fraas

John: had meeting this morning. Discussed troop patrol cooking at summer camp and schedule for upcoming campouts. Dieter will be coordinator for the Camporee.

VII. Liaison from ASM meeting to PCM, and vice versa – Melissa

MD: good to have ASM brief us. Do we want PC member to go to ASM meeting?

Jim C: good idea, to see how sausage is made. For example, patrol problems at summer camp. Cited New York Times article on “How do you form your Patrols.”

Jim has new method for this that he’ll try this month (9/18).

VIII. Troop 349 Philosophy – Melissa

Tabled until future meeting due to lack of time.