

Troop 33 -- Takoma Park, MD
Monthly Committee Meeting
April 16, 2018, Church Parlor Room
8:00-9:30 pm
Minutes (DRAFT)

Present: Howie Schaffer (Committee Chair), Bruce Andersen, David Droddy, Victoria Eisenberg, Johan Hammerstrom (Scoutmaster), Sonja Kueppers, Dave Lanar, Nicole Phillips, Jim Vorhies

Introductions & Chair's Report – Howie Schaffer

- Discussion of National Rifle Association (NRA) affiliation with BSA
 - A parent of a former Scout, Jeff Williams, has expressed concern about the NRA connection with the BSA. He has asked that we take a formal position opposing the NRA connection with the BSA. The NRA has long provided training to adults in the BSA who then are able to offer marksmanship activities for Scouts. Mr. Williams is concerned that money the Boy Scouts spend on firearms safety might go to support the NRA's political arm. After some discussion, the committee agreed to keep an eye on the issue.

- Nomination and election of Troop Committee Secretary and Outdoor Activities Coordinator
 - Sonja Kueppers and David Droddy were nominated to the Secretary and Outdoor Activities Coordinator positions, respectively, by Victoria Eisenberg. Seconded by Bruce Andersen, approved unanimously. The main responsibility of the Outdoor Activities Coordinator position is to organize the monthly campouts.

- Nomination for Outstanding Unit Scouter Award
 - Howie will send out a separate e-mail for nominations, with information about who has received this award in the past. Many people present at the meeting have already received the award, but it is always worth recognizing new people. Recipients must be registered adult leaders. The award can only be received once.

Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2018 meeting

A motion was made by Jim Vorhies to approve the minutes. Dave Lanar seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report - Jim Vorhies
 - Jim will circulate a mid-year report.

- The ski trip was less expensive than expected. Howie suggested that after calculating the overage per scout, we contact Kristen Dill, the event leader, and ask if the excess can be applied to the financial aid that was give to some scouts to enable their participation.
- Current bank balance is about \$37,000. Upcoming expenses include improvements at Camp Schmitt, renovations to the new equipment storage room, camperships for Camp Horseshoe, and new camping equipment. Some of the funds currently in the bank account are moneys paid by Scouts for Camp Horseshoe, Philmont, and the Adirondacks canoeing trip.
- Howie reported that Tim Miller will be taking on the official role of Camp Schmitt coordinator. Work will include updating the latrines and the zip line.
- Some discussion of amount within the troop account that is part of the Scoutscapes program. Total is currently about \$1500. Howie stated that he understands existing troop policy to be that money is not cashed out to scouts when they leave the troop, but that they can use it for any scouting expense, including at the Scout Shop.
- Johan was asked to report back on how many camperships we award. Extensive discussion of how best to ensure that all Scouts and families are aware of the financial assistance available and are able to participate fully. It is important that this process be confidential. \$5300 is budgeted for camperships and assistance with dues this year.
- The question was raised about whether the Scouts are involved in budgeting. Not at the present time.
- Eagle Scout Committee - Dave Lanar
 - Dave reported that Scouts are not moving along with their Eagle projects.
 - "Trail to Eagle" session was not well-attended.

Membership Committee - Bruce Andersen

- We need a records management plan - where do they get filed, when do they get destroyed, etc?
- Uncertain about policy for troop roster distribution. For the present time, will be distributed on paper, and can be sent to individual parents electronically, but should not be mass mailed out. Will be discussed further at next Troop Committee meeting.
- Advancement Report
 - Matt Rees reported to Howie that he is getting new posters to put up in the scout room showing individual advancement.
 - Matt's email report also indicated a couple Trail to Eagle takeaways: don't offer it after the meeting, don't do it right after spring break, offer pizza, and do more direct outreach to the young people.

- Training Report - Bruce Andersen
 - Bruce handed out information on training and encouraged people to participate in training opportunities, especially Wood Badge.
- Centennial Committee - no report
- Equipment Coordinator
 - New equipment storage room is being worked on. Walls have been scraped and repointing estimate are being sought. Next up: new door and shelving and ventilation.

Old Business

- Soap Box Derby update
 - Rick Swan is well underway, Anna Golovko and Minya Zeru agreed to do concessions. Tim has agreed to follow up with sponsors. Dave has arranged permits.

Report from Scoutmaster – Johan Hammerstrom

- Maria obtained new stoves for the patrols at REI
- Scouts will work on shaking down patrol boxes in next two weeks.
- Johan will send out revised Camp Horseshoe guide.
- New scouts have been welcomed into troop and assigned to patrols. Will Gorman, their troop guide, is working with them.
- New leaders are in place, training took place Saturday afternoon.
- Church yardwork took place Saturday morning - 25 scouts and 10 adults were present.
- There will be a campout at Camp Schmitt at end of month.
- In May troop will focus on Soapbox Derby cars.
- A longer hiking trip is being planned, potentially at Cunningham Falls State Park.
- Bruce thinks patrols are double the size they should be. Johan agrees that they are too large, but responded that each patrol needs a leader, and it is difficult to find enough Scouts willing to take on the leadership roles. Next March, the incoming Webelos den will have approximately 25 boys. Johan's goal is to expand to 6-7 patrols by next March, but he doesn't want to push the second year Scouts to become Patrol Leaders before they are ready.
- Bruce wants to see a three-month calendar of program of the troop meeting activities, so the Troop Committee can see that there is a solid plan in advance.

New Business

No new business

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. Next meeting May 21, 8pm-9:30, Parlor Room of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church