

**Boy Scout Troop 33
Takoma Park Maryland
Monthly Committee Meeting
Minutes**

September 17, 2018, TP Church Parlor Room, 8-9:30pm

Present: Howie Schaffer (chair), Nicole Philips, Elisa Irwin, Rob Leventhal, Sonja Kueppers (secretary), David Droddy, Matthew Rees, Jim Vorhies (treasurer), Amy Gotwals, Maria Wiseman, Johan Hammerstrom (Scoutmaster)

Introductions & Chair's Report - Howie Schaffer

- Agenda format and Process

Howie reported that the New and Old business organizational method for the agenda hasn't really been working for us, so instead he wants to try switching to a method where Priorities and Decisions are identified in advance for each meeting.

Sonja outlined a new process for setting the agenda for Troop Committee meetings, as follows:

Week 1 - Troop Committee meets. Minutes from previous meeting are approved. Approved minutes are uploaded to web site. Minutes from current week's meeting are written.

Week 2 - Minutes are reviewed by Troop Committee Chair and Scoutmaster.

Week 3 - Minutes are e-mailed to troop parents along with a request for agenda items.

Week 4 - Troop Committee Chair and Secretary create agenda with input from Scoutmaster and disseminate agenda to troop parents.

It may not always be possible to include everyone's agenda items right away, but we have never rejected an agenda item.

Nicole remarked that the Scoutmaster should not be involved in setting the agenda for the Troop Committee.

Elisa asked if the agenda would be approved at the Troop Committee meetings; Howie responded that he did not think that would be necessary. Anyone who

suggests an agenda item is given time and a fair hearing. Even if it cannot happen right away due to other priorities and commitments.

Elisa noted that there should be more clarity about who the voting members of the Troop Committee are.

- Communication channels
 - Elisa would like for parents to be able to communicate with each other on the troop parents mailing list.
 - David suggested creating a separate group, allowing for an announcements-only mechanism as well as a forum for discussion between parents. It is important to make sure everyone sees the announcements.
 - This topic will be discussed in more detail at the October Troop Committee meeting.
- Priorities
 - Transparency - Howie acknowledged that people have reported that they don't always know how decisions are made. In his view, building trust is a slow process and requires transparency. There are a few things that can't be shared with everyone, relating to health, financial, and legal matters, but for the most part all other information is available to families. The biggest issue is people reading emails and troop communications. More information is available than many people recognize.
 - Adult leadership - We don't currently have enough adults taking on leadership roles. The troop has doubled in size without a commensurate increase in adult leadership. More help is needed with numerous tasks such as fundraising, soapbox derby cars, etc.
 - Rechartering - Every year, we need to recharter the troop, making sure everyone's dues are paid, training is up to date, people are moved off of the troop rolls if they are no longer involved, adults are listed in the correct role, etc. More help is needed on this process. Also, this is a major activity in December and January, so volunteers may have less time for other things during those months.
 - Camp Schmitt - We need to make sure we have the right type of insurance.
 - Equipment
 - Archives
 - Centennial in 2020 - a team needs to be formed to work on this.
 - Fundraising - current plan worked with 40 kids, but we now have 68.

Review/Approval of Minutes of August 20th Meeting - Sonja Kueppers

Nicole moved to approve minutes, Jim seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Report from Scoutmaster

The Assateague campout had to be cancelled because the park was closed. We have now cancelled 3 campouts in a row. Johan plans to make sure that going forward, there is a plan B that is advertised in advance, so that if there is some reason the campout needs to be cancelled, everyone knows what we will be doing instead. Since the October campout involves backpacking, plan B will be related to that and use the same meals and equipment.

It is very difficult to plan the Assateague trip as a troop campout because of the short time after the beginning of the Scouting year. There was some discussion of alternatives, including organizing it entirely as a family campout, moving it to October, or moving it to the spring. Decision on this will be made by the end of February for next year.

The system for determining whether Scouts are going on camping trips is being revised to try to get a more accurate list earlier. Online form is being used, and patrol leaders are also asking patrol members if they are coming. The way parents are being asked about their ability to drive to and from the campout is also being changed with the hope that David will not need to spend so much time calling families to try to find drivers.

We will try to set clear expectations at the beginning of the Scouting year about the need for families to volunteer to drive.

Family Scouting

We discussed the proposal Sonja had circulated. At next month's meeting, the Troop Committee will be called upon to decide what its position is on the creation of a troop for girls under the auspices of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. Sonja will prepare some possible statements for consideration at the next meeting.

Some aspects of the discussion included:

There was some confusion about why our opinion is relevant. Why does the church want to know our position? How would our opinion influence the church?

Howie said that Liz Hoge, our Chartered Organization Representative, had requested that he remind everyone of the letter that the Girl Scout leaders had sent to the troop expressing their concerns about girls being admitted to Scouts BSA. Howie agreed to circulate the letter again to the troop committee. Maria wanted to make sure we had responded adequately to the letter when it was sent originally.

It was clarified that the proposed troop structure would have separate finances for the girls' and boys' troops.

There was some discussion about whether there would be any negative repercussions for the boys if a troop for girls were created. We brainstormed the possibilities of less available space at the church, greater competition in fundraising, and splitting parents' volunteer energy.

Nicole expressed the opinion that girls should have the same opportunities as boys.

David suggested that for equity reasons, the troops should be referred to as "Girls' Troop 33" and "Boys' Troop 33."

Howie noted that he has already endorsed the proposal, speaking for himself and not for the troop committee. He also suggested that if the church is not willing to sponsor the troop and it is chartered elsewhere, Troop 33 should still support the new troop.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer - Jim Vorhies

The end of the fiscal year is on October 1. This kicks off the planning process, which normally takes place in October and November, but will likely stretch into December this year.

We will be finishing the year on target financially. The anticipated end of year balance will be about \$21,000 - \$22,000 after the closet is completed.

Howie remarked that we do not have any current plans for large expenditures.

Elisa would like to see specific guidelines for camperships.

Howie noted that last year, the troop committee established priorities, identifying what kinds of things it is and is not willing to provide financial support for. He will resend the financial assistance priorities to the troop committee.

- Advancement Report - Matt Rees

Court of Honor is coming up on September 27.

As of today, there are 68 young people in the troop

54 boys have received some kind of award, 10 will be advancing in rank

2 scouts, 2 second class, 1 first class, 1 star, and 4 life

129 merit badges - 38 different merit badges

Other awards including National Outdoor Awards, Firem'n Chit, and Totin' Chip.

Update on Key 3 actions regarding concerns about an adult leader - Howie Schaffer

It was originally reported in the June Troop Committee meeting that an adult leader had been sanctioned. These sanctions have been extended indefinitely due to noncompliance with conditions set forth for return to troop activities by the church and the Key 3.

The details of this discussion have been omitted from the minutes because it is not appropriate for them to appear on the Troop web site.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Unit Key 3 (Liz Hoge, Chartered Organization Representative; Johan Hammerstrom, Scoutmaster; and Howie Schaffer, Troop Committee Chair).

Pancake Supper

Howie and Johan met with Anna Golovko to plan for the Pancake Supper. The shift structure will be changed this year, because 6pm is the peak time. Now there will be a 3-5 shift, a 5-7 shift, and a 7-9 shift. Quantity of ticket sales will be recognized by patrol, and each patrol will have an assigned area of Takoma Park to sell tickets. Working as a patrol will have benefits for teamwork and cooperation within the patrol.

Equipment needs will be planned further in advance this year.

Johan noted that he is looking for advisors/mentors for the patrols specifically for this activity.

Matt remarked that in Boards of Review, the boys all say they would like to do more things with their patrols, so he thinks the Pancake Supper plans sound good.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:49pm (Next Meeting October 15, 2018, 8pm)

Troop 33 Committee Officers

CHAIR – Howie Schaffer

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE – Liz Hoge

TREASURER – Jim Vorhies & Dave Lanar

SECRETARY – Sonja Kueppers

- **Communications — Vacant**
- Webmaster – Charlie Hairston & Eric Smith

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR – ** Maria Wiseman & Gary Cardillo, Co-Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – Vacant

- September Renewal & Webelos Crossover – Bert Brandenburg
- **Recharter Coordinator – Vacant**
- Clothing Coordinator – Howie Schaffer
- **Training Coordinator – Vacant**

ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR – Matthew Rees

- Merit Badge Co-Coordinator/Merit Badge Day -- Marian MacDorman & David Goldberg
- Eagle Coordinator --Dave Lanar

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – David Droddy

- Summer Trip Coordinators – Kevin Balfe & John Mark Nieman
- Ski Trip Coordinator – Kristen Dill
- Soap Box Derby Coordinator – Rick Swan
- Health Form Coordinator – Rebecca Woodings
- Camp Horseshoe Coordinator – Bryan Frey

FUNDRAISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR – **Vacant

- Pancake Supper – Anna Golovko, Shellie Williams, Minya Zeru
- Mulch Coordinator – Dave Lanar & Eric Smith
- Scouting for Food Coordinator – Wagner Family
- **Service Projects (Church/Community) – Vacant**
- **Centennial Coordinator – vacant**