

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

October 15, 2018, TP Church Parlor Room, 8-9:30pm

Present:

Howie Schaffer (Chair), Victoria Eisenberg, Nicole Philips, Dave Goldberg, Dave Lanar, David Droddy, Rebecca Woodings, Sonja Kueppers (Secretary), Johan Hammerstrom (Scoutmaster), Tim Miller, Glenn Jackson

Introductions & Chair's Report - Howie Schaffer

Review/Approval of Minutes of September 17 Meeting - Sonja Kueppers

Dave Goldberg moved that the minutes be approved. David Droddy seconded, they were unanimously approved.

Priorities

Troop email restrictions and communication policy

Howie provided background information on the current situation, which is that only authorized people can send e-mail to our large lists, such as troopparents. There had been numerous complaints about the number of e-mails people were getting, and then over the summer, the lists were further restricted to avoid extensive or divisive debate on pressing topics.

Howie reported that he and Johan believe that parents and caregivers are willing to receive announcements about the troop's program, fund-raising, troop committee activities, etc. as a result of their child's involvement in the troop, but are not universally willing to receive messages that fall into the category of discussions between parents, and do not wish to receive replies that are accidentally sent by individual parents to the entire list.

The alternative perspective is that communication builds community, where people can rely on each other for help.

There was some discussion about how people discover information about the troop, and it was suggested that the web site should contain information about the various resources available and how to obtain access to them, even though the resources themselves may not always be available on the web site for privacy reasons.

The Committee validated its current policy that our main e-mail lists can only be posted to by authorized persons. A subcommittee led by David Droddy and Sonja Kueppers will work further on this issue, to include exploring Google Groups for Business, and will reach out to Jonathan Peterson to determine Pack 33's communication needs. They will explore the creation of an opt-in list or forum for parents who want to communicate further with each other.

Developing an opt-in mechanism for text messaging was also briefly discussed.

Decisions

Family Scouting - Troop 33's Position on Scouts BSA Unit for Girls

This was the third troop committee meeting dedicated to dialogue about this topic. There was an extensive discussion, which included the following perspectives:

- Reasons Against
 - Deferring the decision for 3-4 years would allow us to wait until there is more structure and guidance available.
 - We shouldn't be poaching members from the Girl Scouts.
 - The BSA made this decision for financial reasons, which isn't a good reason for welcoming girls.
 - The BSA program might not be right for girls.
 - The boys in Troop 33 have not been consulted to ascertain their position.
 - The Pack and the Troop should be in alignment on the issue, and the Pack is currently not accepting girls.
- Reasons For
 - Given that a troop for girls will exist somewhere, for Troop 33 to support it is in line with the values of the Scout Law, such as helpfulness, friendliness, courtesy, and kindness.
 - Troop 33 has been a leader on issues of equality and social justice. Supporting a troop for girls is in line with the troop's values and the community's values.

- Now is the right time to do this. There's energy around it now, girls are excited now, and we are the right place to figure out how to make it work.
- Girls are totally capable of taking advantage of the Boy Scout program.
- It would be beneficial to the boys to work together with girls on Scouting activities.
- In a youth-led program, the young people can help figure out what they do and do not want to do together.
- There would be sufficient separation between girls and boys in any scenario to allow for the young people to bond with members of their own gender.
- There exist packs now that have girls as members, and they need troops for those girls to feed into.
- One attendee commented that he wished his daughters, now grown, had been able to do things with the Boy Scouts.
- Other concerns/comments
 - It isn't necessary for Troop 33 to have a formal position -- the troop would always be helpful to other nearby Scouting units, and this is no different.

The final outcome was a vote on the following resolution to be sent to the leadership of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church:

“Troop 33 is in favor of the creation of a Scouts BSA troop for girls at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, and would provide practical support for this endeavor, such as loaning equipment as available, encouraging merit badge counsellors to offer their services to the girls' troop, encouraging other adult volunteers to participate with the girls' troop, and encouraging the youth in both troops to plan some activities jointly throughout the year, understanding that our capacity to work together will increase over time.”

The language was passed with 9 voting in favor, and 3 opposed.

Report from Scoutmaster - Johan Hammerstrom

The Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) training was offered the last Saturday in September. There are now 5 patrols; 4 have patrol leaders and 1 has an aspl acting as patrol leader temporarily. The new Patrol Leaders' Council performed very well on Trap Pond trip, had great spirit, was good natured, and were good role models.

All 5 patrols went on the trip, where each patrol hiked separately. Packs weighed between 18-38 pounds. The day was beautiful, the 5.2 mile hike through a cypress swamp was pretty. They camped as patrols. A spontaneous game emerged from SPL. Some gear was forgotten, two patrols forgot to pack meals (one breakfast, one dinner). Most patrol members were obedient to their patrol leaders, but one patrol ran into trouble. Mr. Sellar and Mr. Hammerstrom spoke with them about the importance of listening to their Patrol Leader, and spoke with their PL and SPL about the difficulty of the situation they were facing. Campfire courtesy was somewhat lacking; a little more structure would be helpful in the future. The boys spontaneously burst into the Camp Horseshoe song at the end of the campfire.

November's campout will include a 5 mile hike in Catoctin Mountain Park.

The Pancake Supper is coming up on Nov. 10. During this week's troop meeting, patrols will go out and sell tickets in groups of 3-4. Adults will need to escort patrols and drive them to where they need to go for the next three weeks. A signup will go out soon.

The Pancake Supper pays for camperships, while the mulch sale pays for other expenses. We will need to do more fundraising as the troop grows.

Rebecca will be starting off the organizational process for ticket sales again this year. It was noted that if a scout has already tried to sell tickets in a particular area, they need to report back to avoid duplication.

Howie commended Johan for making ILST different this time so that the same boys wouldn't be doing the same kind of training repeatedly. Johan remarked that the boys thought a highlight was getting lunch bought for them at Chipotle.

Howie noted that there was a great Court of Honor, and the five new scouts are getting integrated.

Adjourned at 9:46 (Next Meeting November 19, 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**