

Troop 652B Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: August 23, 2023

Present: Kevin Snyder, Cristie Snyder, Robb Metyk, Suzi Tschetter, Allie Botros, Brian Christian, Robby Maher, Jane Mahoney

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Suzi called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652B Parent Committee at 6:20 PM in the St. Basil Parish Center.

II. Reports

Scoutmaster (Kevin)

- Troy and Justin completed their Odeal this past weekend at Beaumont and were inducted into BSA's Order of the Arrow.
- Upcoming campouts and activities include the American heritage campout (September 15-17), council camporee (October 6-8), and troop campout to host Webelos and Arrows (November 3-5). Katrina Yeigh is coordinating any boys' troop members that would like to attend Manatoc's 100th anniversary weekend celebration (September 22-24).
- The troop's December holiday activity will be discussed in PLC. TBD.
- Pack 652 will hold their open house recruitment event on August 30 at St. Basil from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will have an info table with display, flyers, and knot display board. Troop scouts will run activities. Arrive before 6:00 PM in class A uniform to help at the event. The rock wall will arrive at 5:00 PM for any scouts that want to come early to climb.
- Our first combined meeting with the girls' troop is September 6. The plan is to do a combined opening then split into separate troops for announcements and meetings.
- Discussion: BSA's potential plans for merging boys' and girls' troops, similar to how Cub Scouts and Venture Crews are integrated.
- The church has notified us of some date changes for room availability. Any changes throughout the year will be posted to the website calendar and communicated by email and/or GroupMe.
- Ronin's Eagle Court of Honor will be held September 10 from 2:00-4:00 PM at Independence's Liberty Playground Building (next to Safety Town). Scouts will be asked to attend and participate in the ceremony.

Outdoor/Activities Chair (Craig – no report)

- Craig will call Great Trail Council to make a site reservation for our November campout.
- The October camporee is a council event. Scouts will register and pay on their own at council's website. Craig will check on early bird pricing and deadlines, and if food will be provided by event organizers. We may need to collect additional money for patrol food. Details to be shared with troop.
- Invitations to the Webelos/Arrows campout in November will be extended to all area Cub Scout packs. Cristie to work with Kevin and Craig to get information distributed.

Secretary (Cristie)

- No new youth or adult registrations in July or August.

- There has been an ongoing problem with our webhost and email distribution lists. Emails to the troop have not been arriving in inboxes or are delayed by many, many hours. There were security issues with our DNS and, after contacting customer service a few times, was assured the issue has been corrected as of 08/23/23. Implementation of a patch to take up to 48 hours and email distribution should be repaired.
- There are approximately 100 email addresses on our troopmembers list. We will create a temporary workaround to send emails in small groups.
 - *Update after the meeting (08/25/2023): Cristie made follow-up contact with webhost. DNS repaired. Emails are visible in queue waiting to be delivered.*
 - *Update after the meeting (08/26/2023): Cristie made additional follow-up contact with webhost due to sudden bounceback notices of undeliverable domain emails in addition to list troubles. Elevated to engineering.*
- Cristie to create new emails attached to our domain: treasurer@troop652bsa.org and committee.chair@troop652bsa.org. Will begin to reinstitute use of information@troop652bsa.org for general inquiries and phase out the troop Hotmail address.

Treasurer (Sal)

- Monthly financial report provided to committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- Discussion: Track down outstanding receipts and purchase records from summer camp. Refunds from council for fees paid. Purchases made at Scout Shop.
- Sal to send a reminder to families that still owe dues payments.
- Please forward all receipts and finance questions to treasurer so he can log purchases and answer questions. New treasurer email to be live soon.
- Committee agreed to switch troop financial tracking and reporting to Quick Books.

Advancement (Brian)

- We are advancing. Rank boards of review have been requested for this evening.
- There were many, many achievements at the two summer camps.
- Our next troop court of honor is scheduled for November 1. Suzi to contact girls' troop committee chair about COH date and space sharing logistics for November 1.

Equipment Coordinator (Mike – no report)

- The troop trailer repairs are complete and both rear doors have been replaced. The total cost for replacement was \$1,614.60. The dealership also assessed the frozen trailer hitch mechanism.
- The decal graphics have been printed and will be installed in the next couple weeks. Since the doors have been replaced, graphics will be installed on all four sides of the trailer.
- After graphics are complete, the new interior shelves will be installed in the trailer. A work session will be held at Mike's home.
- Kevin purchased a brand-new replacement hitch mechanism for the trailer. He got a really good deal in an online auction!

Fundraising (vacant)

- Suzi requested to purchase some of the troop's remaining soda from the pop & water sale. She'll determine what she wants and arrange for pick up with the Dubitskys. Any remaining beverages will be served at upcoming troop events.
- Discussion: 'Flags Over West Chester' fundraiser conducted by a troop in Cincinnati area. The troop temporarily installs and removes American flags from residences on a pre-determined number of holidays

during the year. Sal presented fundraiser flyer for committee to review. There would need to be a capital purchase of flags, poles, and pipe. One or two dedicated individuals would be needed to run this fundraiser for the troop.

- Allie to call Building Departments in Brecksville, Broadview Heights, and Independence to check if this would be allowed and if any permitting is needed for installation.
- Cristie to scan and send 'Flags Over West Chester' info flyer to troopcommittee list for review and continued discussion.
- Discussion: Participation in troop fundraisers and providing credit to families.

III. Old business

- The fall VIRTUS training session at St. Basil is September 11. Adults that have not attended VIRTUS are encouraged to register. A link is on the troop calendar.
- Cristie created a guidance document that outlines the steps for adults to register as a volunteer with the troop. Can be requested from Cristie or Suzi if there is interest in being involved.
- Ideas for service projects are always welcome. If you have a suggestion, it helps if you are willing to be the lead on the project.
- Adult committee positions that need to be filled include committee chair, advancement coordinator, service project coordinator, membership coordinator, and training coordinator. A list of roles can be viewed on the website at www.troop652bsa.org/volunteers-needed/.

IV. New business

- Suzi seeks recommendations of people to ask to fill troop volunteer positions. An email with info will go out to troopmembers list.
- Suzi to check with Brecksville Kiwanis about paying balance of cost for troop trailer decals.
- New youth programs rep Deacon Rob Blackburn visited with our program leaders at last week's troop meeting. Quarterly meetings with the parish will begin again soon. Troop service to the parish will be highlighted in next meeting.
- Discussion: BSA has increased annual membership costs for youth and adults.
- Discussion: Beginning September 1, individuals will register or renew their own membership in BSA instead of rechartering as a group at the end of December. Families will receive reminders by email that they need to renew. The church will still recharter the troop unit at the beginning of each year. Do we need a dedicated volunteer to track which scouts renew their membership and if they are current?
- Allie and Sal will work together to compile the 2023 budget.
- Discussion: Budgeting troop money to help defray membership costs for adults that volunteer. Some adults spend a lot of time and energy keeping the troop running. Are there certain adult leadership positions that should have their annual registration fee fully paid or reduced? Many years ago, the unit absorbed the cost of registering all adult leaders (maybe four leaders, at most, when troop was much smaller) as a thank you for their efforts.

V. Announcements

- Suzi is not able to make committee meetings for the next couple months due to a personal learning opportunity. With no new committee chair in training, committee members will step up and run meetings in her absence.
- As of 8/18, our percentage of trained adult leaders has improved to 64.71%.

V. Adjournment

Suzi adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM. The next committee meeting is September 27, 2023.

See a full calendar of meetings and activities at www.troop652bsa.org/events

Draft notes submitted by Cristie Snyder on August 25, 2023. Reviewed and approved by Suzi Tschetter on August 28, 2023.