

Troop 652B Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

*** Committee did not meet in December. ***

Present: Suzi Tschetter, Jane Mahoney, Kevin Snyder, Cristie Snyder, Craig Moore, Sal Caruso, Brian Christian

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

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

II. Reports

Scoutmaster (Kevin)

- It's been a few months since we've met, so there's a lot to review!
- Troy was elected as our new Senior Patrol Leader on November 15. He chose Grady and Justin as his Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders.
- We have three new patrols. A PLC training was held December 13 at the Elmwood Rec Center in Independence. The new SPL, ASPLs, patrols leaders, and assistant patrol leaders met to discuss and organize the upcoming year.
- The Christmas party was fantastic, everyone had a lot of fun. It's a popular activity for our troop and about 20 scouts attended. Per Sal: Let the record show that, in adults vs. scouts, the adults won decisively.
- The new shelves were installed in the trailer. Robb and Kevin did assembly and installation, totes were purchased, and trailer was organized. Along with getting the trailer in shape, the garage storage space was organized and the boys' rearranged items in our storage. The Cub Scout pack and girls' troop still need to sort and manage their gear.
- The troop has spent some time planning for the Klondike, which happened last weekend. Klondike weekend was crazy because of severe weather and a winter storm. Beaumont was closed Friday night due to weather and campers were instructed to arrive Saturday morning. Leaders discussed impending weather and driving conditions and decided to make Klondike a day event and go Saturday only. The event had a delayed start Saturday morning, but things got going and good time was had by all. Lunch was a cast iron cooking activity. The boys had two patrols that competed, and, during the evening auction, they won a new heavy-duty wagon, ponchos, a camp chair, a tarp, and MREs.
- New scout Lincoln joined our troop just after January 1. He attended the Klondike with our troop as his first BSA camping activity.
- The pre-Klondike winter camping talk with parents was well received.
- Pak 652 Arrows are visiting our troop this evening. In addition, Pack 216 will visit on January 31 and Pack 297 will visit on February 28. Pack 216's crossover is in February.
- Visitors are finding us, attending meetings, and joining the troop. This is good news. Our online presence including the website, Facebook, and BeAScout pin all are working well to make us visible.
- The Polar Bear Campout is coming up February 23-25. We are ironing out our camping plans for March and April.
- Mrs. Christian has arranged for Kids Capes of Courage to be at our troop meeting on February 7 as a service project.
- Scout Sunday is tentatively being rescheduled for February 18 at 9:00 AM mass.

Outdoor/Activities Chair (Craig)

- The Klondike registration through council's website worked well. Craig matched parents with a payment portal so they could pay for their child's activity fee. It's a nice option for council camping events and activities.
- We've rented a small cabin for the Polar Bear Campout in February.
- For the March campout, ideas are being discussed. The scouts want to do something different, but they aren't sure what that is. The April campout, usually a scout/parent event, will most likely be held in Brecksville so parents can visit for the day on Saturday. There are no overnights allowed for unregistered adults.
- Craig would like to set a standard that all camping paperwork MUST be turned in at the Wednesday meeting before a campout. Last minute scrambles to turn items in on Friday are not working well. Troop may need to establish a policy stating if items are not turned in early, campers might not be able to go. We're asking everyone to be courteous to the volunteers coordinating these group activities.
- Five boys have stated that they'd like to go to Camp Merz in July.

Secretary (Cristie)

- There was one new youth and one adult registration in the last month.
- We received an email inquiry through the website about joining the troop.
- Discussion: Digital assets for the troop including website, email distribution service and Facebook page. As mentioned during November committee meeting, the list of troop Eagle Scouts on our website now includes girl troop members that have earned the rank. Cristie also updated 'Who We Are' page to include girls' troop leaders and reflect combined committee.
- Meeting notes and newsletters for 2023 have been archived in the troop's Google Drive.

Treasurer (Sal)

- Monthly financial report provided to committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- Brian Christian approved to have troop debit card for purchases related to advancement.
- 2024 budget presented to committee. Discussion: 2023 year-end balance plus budget vs. actual, 2023 cost per scout, revenue from troop fundraisers (pop and water sale), upcoming expenditures.
- Discussion: Fundraisers to offset costs for troop operations. Cost per scout is \$150 approximately, and dues collected does not cover so additional funds are necessary. The pop and water sale and Bellmore Trust are covering additional operating costs.
- Discussion: Individual fundraisers (popcorn, maple syrup, etc.) and scholarships to defray family out-of-pocket costs. Jane to draft parameters for managing donations that can be used to help provide funds for individual scouts through a troop equity account and application process.
- 2024 budget approved by committee. Available to all troop members on request.
- The troop received a \$250 donation from Brecksville Kiwanis to help cover costs of replacing the trailer doors. Sal to send thank you note.
- Financial records and a recent backup of QuickBooks have been posted in the troop's Google Drive.
- Forward all receipts and finance questions to treasurer so he can log purchases and answer questions. Send to treasurer@troop652bsa.org

Advancement (Brian)

- Advancements are picking up.
- The next troop court of honor is scheduled for March 6. A master of ceremonies will be needed for the event and scouts should see Mr. Snyder. The troop holds a court of honor to celebrate advancements and awards 2-3 times per year.
- Scouts should request Scoutmaster conferences or boards of review by email before Wednesday or at the beginning of a troop meeting.

Equipment Coordinator (Mike – no report)

Fundraising (vacant)

- Seeking a replacement volunteer for the troop's Pop and Water Sale. The Dubitsky family would like to step down from the fundraiser since both of their scouts are Eagles and less involved with the troop.

III. Old business

- A guidance document outlining the steps for adults to register as a volunteer with the troop is available. Request from Cristie or Suzi if someone has 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, fundraising, and membership. A list of roles can be viewed on the website at www.troop652bsa.org/volunteers-needed/.

IV. New business

- Jane has volunteered to coordinate any service project requests we receive from outside the troop (i.e., yard clean-ups, parish picnic, St. Basil golf outing).

V. Announcements

- Suzi will contact 652G leaders about holding a joint troop committee meeting in February.

VI. Adjournment

Suzi adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM. The next committee meeting is February 28, 2024.

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

Draft notes submitted by Cristie Snyder on January 29, 2024. Reviewed and approved by Suzi Tschetter on January 29, 2024.