

Troop 652 Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: February 21, 2024

Present: Jane Mahoney, Craig Moore, Sal Caruso, Suzi Tschetter, Cristie Snyder, Sally Dubitsky, Scott Dubitsky, Gail Hallis, Marc Majers, Brian Christian, Janet Summers, Renee Buszta, Robby Maher, Irene Christian, Shawna Melnykowski, Denise Weisfelder, Liz Martin, Kevin Snyder, Robb Metyk

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Suzi called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652 Parent Committee at 8:00 PM in the St. Basil Parish Center.

This is the first official meeting of a combined committee for the boys' and girls' troops.

II. Introductions

Roundtable introductions of everyone in attendance with details about their current role with the troop.

- Suzi Tschetter – Boys Committee Chair
- Craig Moore – Boys Outings Chair
- Sal Caruso – Boys Treasurer
- Marc Majers – Girls Committee Member, keeper of digital logins and assets
- Cristie Snyder – Boys Secretary, keeper of digital logins and assets
- Jane Mahoney – Boys Assistant Scoutmaster
- Gail Hallis – Girls Treasurer
- Brian Christian – Boys/Girls Advancement Chair
- Sally Dubitsky – Boys Fundraising, Pop & Water Sale + Girls Secretary
- Scott Dubitsky -- Boys Fundraising, Pop & Water Sale + Girls Assistant Scoutmaster
- Renee Buszta – Girls Health Officer
- Liz Martin – Girls Fundraising, Spaghetti Dinner
- Denise Weisfelder – Girls Assistant Scoutmaster
- Shawna Melnykowski – Boys/Girls Assistant Scoutmaster
- Irene Christian – Girls Assistant Scoutmaster
- Robby Maher – Boys/Girls Committee Member
- Janet Summers – Boys parent
- Kevin Snyder – Boys Scoutmaster
- Robb Metyk – Boys Assistant Scoutmaster

Mentioned (not in attendance)

- Tim Meilander – Girls Committee Chair
- Tracey Meilander – Girls Scoutmaster

III. Agenda Items

- The two troops have separate and shared digital assets.

- The boys' troop owns and manages www.troop652bsa.org and a public Facebook page www.facebook.com/BSATroop652B. The boys pay the site hosting fees for Hostmonster which allows for the websites and email lists.
- The girls' troop manages www.girls.troop652bsa.org which is a subdomain of the boys' URL, and a public Facebook page www.facebook.com/BSATroop652G.
- The troops have separate email distribution lists and GroupMe texting for their members.
- The troops share a private parent/scout Facebook group.
- The boys' troop has email addresses that are used by leaders: committee.chair@troop652bsa.org, scoutmaster@troop652bsa.org, treasurer@troop652bsa.org, and information@troop652bsa.org (secretary/website).
- The boys' troop has recently included content about the girls' troop on their website including updates to the About Us page, the list of troop Eagle Scouts, and the site blog.
- There was concern expressed that the girls' troop needs, and should have, a separate website and Facebook page for recruiting purposes and autonomy. Currently, the troops are not co-ed and are two separate units by gender. They also act independently of each other with separate activities.
- Robby Maher and Marc Majers are professional web developers. Robby expressed that the main URL currently provides information relevant to all troop families (boys and girls) such as forms, maps, camping info, and calendar. There's enough current information posted that overlaps and applies to both units. He also mentioned traffic to websites and that most people are probably finding the girls' troop information through the main URL. Suggestion to do some site redesign to have both units use the main URL with jumps to a boys' section and a girls' section for specific unit details. Also, include improvements to the mobile optimization of the site. Should girls have a separate calendar? A sub-committee can address the websites and work on the next steps.
- The separate public Facebook pages will be maintained.
- Review of open positions and responsibilities of roles that will need to be filled. There are or will be available positions on the committee that need to be filled including committee chair, advancement, fundraising, membership, and training. Tim has announced his retirement as girls' committee chair. Suzi intends to step down as boys committee chair once a replacement is found. Brian will retire from advancement in June 2025. The Dubitskys intend to step away from the pop & water sale since both their children are Eagle Scouts. Liz will retire from spaghetti dinner when her daughter is finished with Scouting.
- The intent is to combine some committee roles while leaving others separate.
 - Adult volunteers in these roles will act on behalf of both troops: Committee Chair, Secretary, Advancement, Membership, Training.
 - Adult volunteers in these roles will remain separate: Boys Scoutmaster, Girls Scoutmaster, Boys Treasurer, Girls Treasurer, Boys Fundraising, and Girls Fundraising.
- Currently, the boys' troop has the pop & water fundraiser at Brecksville Home Days. The girls' troop hosts a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Discussion about the viability of doing a girls' troop booth again at Home Days. The girls had a Home Days booth in 2023 that did not generate a lot of funds and was difficult to staff with volunteers. Historically, it is difficult to staff Friday and Saturday due to Manatoc summer camp. The boys' troop has had to rely on Cub Scouts to volunteer and staff the booth while the troop wraps up summer camp. A sub-committee can address the fundraisers and work on the next steps.
- Discussion about online adult and youth registrations through BeAScout.org. Both troops still have a paper application process due to a past issue with collecting fees. Currently, Cristie scans and sends new boy applications to Lake Erie Council then has the parent call council HQ to pay the registration fee by phone. Suzi manages the boys' troop adult applications.

- The roles of Membership Chair and Training Coordinator will be combined. Robby Maher will take on the committee role of Membership & Training. He'll guide new registrations through the process of joining the troop and keep tabs on all required training (BSA and St. Basil/Catholic Diocese) for adults.
- This will be Irene's last year coordinating Manatoc Summer Camp. Robb Metyk has agreed to take over as Manatoc coordinator in the future. Craig will continue to coordinate the second summer camp for the boys and their monthly outings.
- Irene inquired about switching collection methods for summer camp payments. Discussion about the online payment method through council websites vs. collecting funds from parents when a scout is registered for camp. Early bird pricing vs. regular pricing for registrants and managing collections and cancellations. A sub-committee can address payment methods and work on the next steps.
- Robby mentioned that the pack has connected PayPal to Scoutbook so they can collect money for activities and dues. Currently, the boys' troop families do not use Scoutbook; it's only used by leaders to log advancement and merit badges. Sal and Robby to discuss.
- Both troops will continue to collect troop dues (\$50) annually to cover troop operations costs. Agreement to have both units collect dues on or around June 1. The girls' troop will continue to collect dues from active Eagle Scouts while the boys' troop will not require active Eagle Scouts to pay dues. BSA membership fees are still paid separately in December or when a scout joins a unit.

IV. New business

- The committee email distribution list troopcommittee@troop652bsa.org will be updated to reflect everyone in attendance at tonight's first joint meeting.
- Discussion about the format of committee meetings going forward and how troop business will be managed by the committee. Separate reports will be given by Scoutmasters, Treasurers, and Fundraising Chairs.
- The group agreed to change the schedule of committee meetings to the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings will begin at 6:30 PM. Cristie to update the online calendar.
 - Secretary's Note: Currently, calendar items specific to the boys' troop are labeled [652B] and calendar items that apply to both units are labeled [652].
- The group checked calendars and determined that May 22 will be the new date for the Capes for Kids service project.

V. Announcements

- Scout Sunday mass has been rescheduled for 9:00 AM on March 17. One reader is needed from each troop and the pack will present the offertory gifts. We'll also have scouts as altar servers.
- Deacon Rob will be trained and certified for BSA's religious medals.
- Camp Merz Summer Camp (July 7-12) early bird pricing (\$495) ends March 31.
- Camp Manatoc summer camp (June 16-22) early bird pricing (\$425) ends April 19.
- The March 6 boys' troop court of honor is canceled. Another troop COH will be scheduled after the summer camp season.
- Brecksville Home Days, and the boys' annual pop & water sale, is June 21-23.
- All troop equipment has been moved out of the parish rectory to the Annex building.
- The troop was contacted by Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge Timothy Clary. He is an Eagle Scout who is a merit badge counselor for Citizenship in the Community and Law. He reached out to make himself available for our scouts if needed. Cristie has his email.

- The troop was contacted by Sgt. Clean Car Wash in Broadview Heights. They acquired the Thundercloud car wash on Route 82 and are requesting the troop(s) to come and do a flag-raising ceremony at the location.
- Virtus training sessions are scheduled for this year. Sessions will be held on April 22 and August 26 at the Family Life Center. Volunteers who work with minors must complete all the Virtus compliance requirements before they can be approved to volunteer. Troop parents are highly encouraged to attend Virtus training whether they volunteer or not.

VI. Adjournment

Suzi adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM. The next committee meeting is March 20, 2024.

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

Draft notes submitted by Cristie Snyder on February 22, 2024. Reviewed and approved by Suzi Tschetter on February 22, 2024 and Sally Dubitsky on February 23, 2024.