BSA Troop 89, The Woodlands, Texas

 Troop Committee Meeting

MINUTES

8 January, 2017

The regular meeting of BSA Troop 89, was called to order by Committee Chairman Jon Gregoire at 4:17 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Attendance: Jon Gregoire, Keith Landau, Brant Jones, Edna Asare, Sally Johnson, Linda Davies, Jennifer West, Hannah Wilems, Scott Trotter.

Linda explained the service project to clean out the holly near the north driveway of the church. The church will provide supplies and tools. This would be service hours.

Sally agreed to continue acting as Secretary and take Minutes.

Committee Meeting Calendar: Dates of future meetings: February 12, March 5, and April 9.

Scoutmaster Report. Keith. Winter Camp went well. Fourteen scouts attended. Serge was Acting SPL. The troop won the Ice Cube Award.

Scout retention is good. We had four Eagle Scouts in 2016. Several scouts are working on their Eagle Projects and many should finish this year. Quartermaster needs to be discussed. The CA Patrol needs a second Assistant Scoutmaster/Patrol Advisor.

Treasurer’s Report. Edna. Year-end accounts are almost done. We need to send recharter reminder emails and request a response so that we do not recharter those not interested. Hannah stated all recharters were contacted.

There is a problem of Expense sheets being signed by youth Patrol Leaders, but these should be signed by adult Patrol Advisors instead. She will send reminder emails to everyone. We have been sending updated account information to probable advancing scouts since current accounts are required for advancement. Edna is handling this on individual basis. It is time to start debiting the accounts of scouts signed up for summer camp.

Edna reminded that Expense reports need to be turned in to her in a timely manner, including paperwork for expenses that were debited in advance. Late charges cause unnecessary problems. The committee agreed to a 45-day expense policy. After that expenses will not be reimbursed.

Summer camp, high adventure, etc. are debited in advance. When scouts sign up for such an event their accounts will start being debited. They will be reminded before the first deposit is due. If they drop thereafter, they will lose their deposit. *Sally* will type up these policies and distribute, and then post if agreed correct.

Summer Camp. No report. Bear Creek July 9-15.

SeaBase. Chris via Brant. The adults going is being finalized. *Chris* will start the Dive Training soon -- He needs to contact SeaBase about whether the deposit for the dropped crew can be applied to the remaining crew.

Camping Sign-Up Finances & Expenses. Keith sends out an email before each camp out listing who has signed up. Those who do not cancel are thereafter responsible for a share of food costs. Edna receives complaints about this, so the policy needs to be made clear.

The cost of summer camp is one number that includes the camp and transportation. Once transportation has been arranged, all signed up are responsible for a share of the cost. Adults not signing up for transportation will not be charged. If changes, such as a parent deciding to drive after the transportation is paid, the driver and scout are still responsible for a share of the transportation cost.

All adults attending summer camp split the cost of the paid adults. No one is free even though camps allow two unpaid adults when billing.

*Sally* will type up and distribute before posting this policy. She will add a Policies/Procedures page to the website. The Driver policy discussed and distributed in the fall will be resent.

Scouts whose accounts are not current will not be allow to attend events. There will be a reminder that all accounts need to be current by the end of May. Payments can be mailed to Edna – no excuse that she was not at a meeting.

Parent “Handbook.” Scott suggested a manual for new parents that explains the workings of the troop, policies, etc. Hannah used to hand out information, but it was largely a stack of forms. Keith commented this would be a good time to restart. Scott will draft and Hannah and Linda will send the information they have.

Camping Calendar. Keith. The troop shoot has not been finalized. There is discussion whether to make it a troop event or go to a facility. The troop would need a certified Range Master and a certified Instructor to do the shoot internally. If we go to a facility we need to not spend time on instruction, so we need to determine what we can do ahead.

Keith thanked Jen for all she does to keep the troop camping calendar. She commented on the response she received when requesting personal vehicle information for the troop files. This can likely go into Troopmaster.

Facilities. Linda. The Fellowship Hall has been booked. The troop needs to decide how they want the room set up for regular troop meetings. For the present we need to put things back as we found them. When we decide what we want, the custodial staff can set the room up that way from then on. We are in a different room tomorrow. Linda will handle the set up for the Philmont slide show presentation.

Recruiting/Membership. Hannah. There are enough commitments for one incoming patrol. We are receiving scouts from P775 and P895. There is a Blue & Gold Crossover on February 11, and two more on February 18, the ERock weekend. She has sufficient slides and will get neckerchiefs and epaulets.

Fundraising. No report. The committee discussed Scouting for Food. January 28 is “Doorhanger” day. Jon will coordinate troop efforts and check with grocery stores about setting up on January 28 and potentially using the doorhangers as handouts as shoppers enter the store.

ERock. Keith. There is no set program for the camp out. Sally will check into primitive campsites in case backpackers would like an event.

Troop Quartermaster: Keith. An equipment wish list is being circulated and he will be talking to the Coleman non-profit coordinator. There will be an inventory of troop equipment and tent condition and then a needs list.

Trailer. Brant has the donator plaque and needs to coordinate with the business that will add the new Eagle names to the trailer.

Backpacking Equipment: Matt Lee is responsible for completing an inventory of backpacking equipment, including that used at Philmont, as part of his leadership position. This equipment is likely still missing. The best guess is that it was left at the church the night Ted Behrens brought it. Ted and Ben English were the quartermasters for the trip and would best know what was taken, and therefore, what is missing. The Loomis-Price garage has been searched and no equipment found. Chris Keene may have taken water filters to the Scout Hut. *Sally* will check.

Sally reported she disposed of all the old tents, as authorized at the last meeting, except the three best ones. She asked for a decision about stoves to be used for backpacking training. She felt the white gas stoves were not safe for training considering the ages of the scouts. The troop owns six Coleman Exponent butane stoves for which fuel is no longer readily available except possibly through eBay. Sally has purchased a few canisters and they were used the last camp out successfully. They are supposedly refillable.

New Business:

Merit Badges. The troop needs to determine who else in the troop can teach merit badges because many counsellors listed on website do not do outside their troops. We seem to be covered on eagle-required badges. We need to check with incoming parents about what they might be able to teach, maybe through the new handbook. Edna suggested merit badge counsellor training.

Other Business. Sally reported that she presented Ian Moore with his Eagle Scout items over Christmas. He was very happy and is doing well – will be teaching in Arizona. His mother also contacted her to say thank you, and how happy he was when he talked her after receiving the items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted: Sally Johnson, Acting Secretary.