

Troop Crew 56 Committee Meeting 10.4.22

Present: Jim Wheaton, Sen Blankinship, Andrew Hartness, Gerry Katz, Penny Haney, Michelle Holmes, Sue Kriegsman, Colin Zick, Gail McCullough, Mary Ellen Galante, Prankaj Bansal, Edward Bartholomew, Ed Henley, Fabricio Pereira, Kathy Kelts, Dan Dillenback

1. Welcome
2. COVID Policy Reminder – continue with current requirements (N-95 masks indoors, testing before trips, vaccination) with no additional vax/booster required. Recent news indicates increased number of variants, decreased effectiveness of vaccines & treatments and Boston waste-water levels show spike in recent weeks. So troop/crew will maintain cautious approach.
3. Scheduling Future Committee Meetings – Suggestions:
 - a. Meet half hour later to include Cub parents? Or different night?
 - b. Meeting that can include Scout Masters to improve communication?
 - c. Past plans: one night/month PLC meeting in-person, adults working with individual Scouts on advancement with Troop committee meeting immediately following 7:30-8:30pm. Currently PLC – Patrol Leaders Council= Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. SPL & PL's – meet 5:30pm on Tuesdays before Scout meeting.
 - d. Structure Scout meeting so that Scoutmasters can join committee for portion 15-20 minutes? Check in with David & Liz to see what they would like to discuss with committee and if attending would be useful to them?
 - e. Need for improved communication between Scoutmasters & Committee. Develop a feedback system so Scoutmaster concerns come to committee & vice versa.
 - f. Separate issue of improving communication from logistics/timing of meeting.
 - g. Proposal to have 7:30 Committee meeting so that Scoutmasters can come. Assistant Scout masters will relieve Scoutmasters to come into Committee meeting at 7:30.

- h. Acknowledgement that some decisions are for Scouts to make rather than Committee/adults.
- 4. Troop Online/e-mail Communications: Google suite; some parents need training; position-specific emails (such as Registrar, etc.) The following issues were raised but the decision made to hold final discussions when Erik and/or Hitesh who set up the Google suite could be present. Questions to consider:
 - a. Registration required to obtain a troop email? Some adults registered with BSA, some parents not. Everyone on email list, but *troopcrew56* email would be for those registered (which includes having completed Youth Protection Training.)
 - b. Restricted list for adults with document access to those registered with BSA only?
 - c. Youth under 13? Youth under 13 currently have to ask parent to send email. Keep youth under 13 on email spreadsheet rather than getting a *troopcrew56* email? Youth Google accounts have more parental controls. The *troopcrew56* email does not have these controls. Parents of children under 13 need to be part of discussion.
 - d. Could someone act as mediator and not allow emails to send until approved?
 - e. Increases liability for troop if the parental controls are not in place for youth under 13.
 - f. Or should we train youth in cybersafety?
 - g. Where should unit docs be located?
 - h. Would youth alumni have access to list?
- 5. Training: Adult & Youth
 - a. IOLS – at Turkey Roast in November? Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills for Adults– is required for any adults who advise on trips. One trained adult needed on each trip. Invite Webelo parents, whose youth will be invited to the trip. Does take all day. This is half of Scoutmaster training. Other half is available online. Michele & Jim will organize.
 - b. ILST/ILSC – Intro to Leadership Skills Troop/Crew – last Sat in October, for PLC.

- c. New Parents orientation – Robin led in spring. Syd will follow up with Robin to plan one for fall.

6. Activities

- a. September trip – Great! Lots of scrambling because trip leaders were assigned too late to complete trainings, etc. Mostly younger youth. Completed many portions of canoeing merit badge.
- b. October trip – Camp Greenough. David made reservation for campsite. Need advisors. Gail provisionally volunteered.
- c. “Unofficial Trips” – discouraged due to liability/insurance issues. Also undercuts youth leadership. But perhaps patrol events could happen? If patrols decide to do a separate event this would be acceptable.
- d. Completing 22-23 planning: Penny & Michelle working on planning for next year 23-24, and Penny will recruit advisors for this year.
Need advisors for ALL trips – prioritize Oct, Nov, Dec. Gerry offered to advise December day trip.
- e. Plan a trip with surplus of adults for training purposes – maybe fall & spring? Or pair experienced with less experienced adult?
- f. PLC will discuss May trips and whether to cancel one – canoeing, white water rafting and/or USS Constitution.
- g. Concern about older Scouts dropping out of trips and therefore not teaching younger Scouts. Priority on every trip to encourage older peer to younger peer interaction. An idea: member of PLC attends every trip to keep older Scouts involved.
- h. Patrols can generate ideas for trips for their patrol leader to bring to PLC. One camping trip per month leads to advancement.
- i. Process for adding events: go through PLC & youth approve. Committee suggest ideas to Penny for 23-24 trips in Dec or Jan, so youth can vote in spring. Committee can veto if not safe or too expensive.
- j. Concern about expense this year. Spring camporee? Registration by unit required, no provisional (individual.)
- k. Maine High Adventure: David & Syd advising. Need to know who/how many youth. Need female leader. Need dates to reserve, avoiding National Jamboree & Scout camp week.

7. Service Projects for church: Pre-COVID, requirement for hours for church who donates space to us. Michelle proposes a mandated number of hours. Coffee hour not happening now. Food pantry, retreat, Christmas fair. Minimum 4 hours per Scout. Committee agreed & Michelle will organize.
8. Advancement: Next CoH – Tues 10/25. Potluck. Cubs will share canopy for outdoors. Gerry will send out updated advancement reports.
9. Fall/Winter Fundraiser: wreaths, trees. Gail has contacted supplier – waiting for response. Planning for next year: Anyone with relationship with garden shop could ask if we can tack on to their order in 2023?
10. PLC meeting Tues 5:30. Assistant Scoutmasters invited to attend, but reminder that interactions needs to be between Scout leaders and Scoutmasters so that Scouts are learning how to run meetings. Choir has church at 5:30pm – our access begins later. Food for youth coming to PLC then going right into Scout meeting? Grubmaster?

Next meeting: Tues 11/1/22 7:30pm