

TROOP COMMITTEE MEETING

12/1/09

MINUTES

In Attendance: Dave McCowan, Bennett Boggess, Bob Murray, Jennifer Murray, Frank Wagon, David Lackey, Black Chaffe, Murali Arthanari, Dietz Froehlich, Pat Weisgarber, Scott Flynn, Mike Mrasek.

Frank Wagon called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. The invocation and pledge were said.

Approval of Minutes – Frank Wagon

Last month's minutes were reviewed. Dietz made one correction. He clarified with Jason and Bill at Longhorn Council that the council does NOT collect any funds from a troop's fundraiser. They just want to approve the fundraiser before it is held. Boy Scouts are not allowed to solicit cash donations. We do have some potential issues with that in our auction that we will need to correct. We will decide in the near future whether we will have our auction again next year or not. With this stated correction, a motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Lackey

Report was prepared by outgoing treasurer Tom Jensen. We have approx. \$18,000 in the bank, \$8,600 of that is in Scout Accounts. This is consistent with last year. All major expenses have been made, including Recharter fees and popcorn. The balance in the bank will be used primarily for expenses.

In looking to curb campout expenses, it was brought up that we will be borrowing canoes from Circle Ten for our Caddo Lake campout. This is less expensive then where we had been renting our canoes. The troop also has purchased a State Park pass, which gets scouts in free.

If scouts leave troop 168 for another troop, we will transfer their scout account monies to the new troop upon request. Their registration fees will not be refunded, although their Boy Scout registration transfers with them. If scouts leave the troop after receiving their Eagle or drop out of scouting, their scout account monies are transferred to the troop scholarship fund.

Departure of 8 Scouts – Frank Wagon and Dave Lackey

Frank reviewed the events that led to the departure of approx. 8 scouts from Troop 168. These scouts and parents are now forming a new Boy Scout troop and Venture crew. In October of 2008, we began the process of finding a new Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman. During this time discussions were held in Troop Committee about the potential of Troop 168 starting a Venture crew. At the May Troop Committee

meeting it was decided that a Venture Crew was not in the best interest of the troop, but that a Venture patrol might be considered. There was disagreement with this from the departing group. Earlier this fall (2009), this group raised the idea of a Venture Crew again and was told that the decision had already been made in May. They decided to form their own Venture Crew and leave Troop 168. Their new Charter Organization asked them to form a Boy Scout Troop as well. Frank and Dave both stated that the leadership of Troop 168 did all they could to work with this group and we wish them well in their new troop.

Frank advised that our District Commissioner, LaRue, had contacted our Charter Organization rep, Jeff Bennett with some safety concerns that had been brought to her from this departing group. It was confirmed that no formal complaints have ever been filed against Troop 168 and LaRue was out of place to raise these concerns with Jeff. The district has removed LaRue from District Commissioner of our troop and Clint Bailey is now our DC. Clint and Jason have confirmed that troop 168 has absolutely no safety issues or any other issues with the district.

It was asked what these safety concerns were. Frank and Dave said there were three: unsafe practices by starting fires with hand sanitizer, tour permits not being filed (all tour permits had been filed) and adults camping too far from the scouts. All Tour Permits were filed correctly with the Council office. Some Scouts were observed starting fires with improper materials; and, were counseled at the time of observation and in subsequent Troop Meetings. Adults attending the campouts confirmed that it was stopped immediately upon observation. Per BSA guidelines, Troop 168 adults camp separately from Scouts; usually in an adjoining campsite or at the opposite end of large campsites. This is the recommended BSA camping guideline for boy led Scouting.

There is some recruiting of our boys going on from this departing group. A couple at the meeting indicated that they had been contacted. Our current head count is approximately 8 scouts and parents are going to the new troop and they are primarily 3rd year scouts. Some of the scouts we are losing are joining the new troop to stay with their buddies. All are welcome to return to 168 if they ever choose to.

With this departure, we are losing two adult leadership positions. We will need to fill the Treasurer and Scout Parent Coordinator positions.

Troop 168 has more trained adults per capita than any other troop in the area. At our campouts we usually do about 5-6 activities while most troops do only 1.

Bank Account Signators – Frank Wagnon

Our list of people approved to sign checks needs to be updated. It was decided that Tom Jensen and Jeff Pannell need to be removed, as they are no longer part of Troop 168. Mike Mrasek will be removed, as he is no longer the Charter Organization Rep. David Lackey, new Scoutmaster, and Al Kepler, new Advancement, will be added to the list. The new Treasurer will be added when appointed.

Calendar – Dave Lackey

12/5 – Breakfast with St. Nicholas at church, 7:30-10:30am. Troop is to cook pancakes for this church event.

12/6 – troop meeting with troop elections. Elections may need to be postponed if candidates for SPL have not been identified. If this happens, there is a potential for the January 3 Court of Honor to move back as well. All those running for a leadership position must have the leadership form signed by their parent.

12/20 – Eagle Court of Honor

Scott Flynn will try to get some of the older scouts together to stay active in the troop.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karie Edson