



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

St. Francis Church
308 Jefferson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
www.troop146.org

November 14, 2017

To: Members and Friends of Boy Scout Troop 146

Here is a summary of the Troop Committee meeting that took place this evening in the HOPES/Rue School faculty lounge. The next meeting and Board of Review will take place on December 5 in the Hoboken Multi Service Center.

1. Present

Marie Luizzi (presiding)	Ken Nilsen
Jon Davidoff	Dave Sytsma
Joe Facchini	Colum Ward
Matt Groo	Dan Weaver
Lenny Luizzi	

Also: Life Scouts Jason Davidoff, Henry Plotka, and Aaron Kurland

2. A New Meeting Space for Troop 146 Starting December 5

Lenny announced that November will be the final month for Boy Scout meetings in the HOPES/Rue School gym, adding, "Not by our choice." Starting December 5, the troop will conduct all its meetings at the Hoboken Multi Service Center at 2nd and Grand. Note that the December Troop Committee meeting will also take place there, also scheduled for December 5. Lenny said that the meeting space "is not a great room, and so we're keeping our options open." But pointed out that we won't be asked to move "unless we do something terrible." Lenny made it a point to thank Mayor Zimmer and Director of Health and Human Services Leo Pellegrini, saying, "They were very cooperative and gave us the room without hesitation."

Norman explained that the troop had been meeting in the HOPES gym since February 2009 at no charge. However, recently HOPES decided that we should be treated like any other local organization and should pay to use the space. He added that we might eventually also move the Cub pack to the Multi Service Center, but he insisted that they not meet on Tuesdays, the same night that the Boy Scouts meet. Lenny said that Wednesdays are also out due to Multi Service Center bingo nights.

Later in the meeting, Lenny asked us to make a special presentation during the upcoming December 12 Court of Honor to Roger Muller, thanking him for the generous donation he made last September.

3. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jacob Grossbard

Jacob's Eagle paperwork was approved by the council, but he missed the 3-month grace period for holding a delayed Eagle Board of Review; that is 3 months after the 18th birthday. Thus Jacob is currently waiting for a second approval, this time from the council's Advancement Committee to approve his written request for an Eagle Board within the 3-6 month period, specifically hoping for December. The written request was submitted on October 31. *[Followup: Jacob got a green light from Peter Kirk at the Council office to proceed.]*

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jason Davidoff

Jason's Eagle paperwork was approved by the council, and now he has to schedule a convenient date for an Eagle Board of Review. Jason will turn 18 in July, 2018. Lenny was clearly unhappy that Jason had delayed completing his Eagle application paperwork starting from July, when his Eagle project was done, until now in November, saying to Jason, "You had the brass ring right there, and you didn't grab it." He reminded Jason that he had expected the Eagle board to take place in September but now he must aim for December and told Jason to select two Mondays in December plus a back-up Monday in January. By way of apology, Jason told Lenny, "Thank you for your patience."

[Followup: Jason's Eagle Board will take place on December 4 at 7:00 PM at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City.]

5. Eagle Scout Status Report for Henry Plotka

Henry gave a repeat overview of his upcoming project, which will be to make the empty office space at the former YMCA on Washington Street more presentable when potential "partners" come to tour the building. During a prior Committee meeting, Ken Nilsen explained that the YMCA building will be converted into the "Hoboken Community Center," and that money from partners will be needed to reopen the gym portion of the building as a community center. Henry told about trash and debris to be removed, taken down the elevator, and placed into a dumpster. Two rooms will then require spackling, sanding, and painting. Henry expects to get donations from hardware stores and Home Depot thanks to family connections. In response to Joe's question, Henry said that the first day will be to remove trash, spackle and let dry, then apply the first coat of paint. The second day will be for the second coat. Henry and Ken made it clear that, for safety reasons, only the bare minimum amount of sanding will be done, and that Scouts will wear masks while doing so.

In response to Dan's question, Henry said that a third weekday evening devoted to trash removal, as proposed during a prior status report, won't be necessary after all. Ken explained that a lot of the biggest items had already been removed and taken to a recycling center. Henry hoped to get project approval quickly and proposed a project date of December 9-10, but Norman warned that Thanksgiving might easily delay everything, and Lenny proposed a back-up date of January 20-21. Lenny urged Henry to get his proposal done and signed and submitted for approval as quickly as possible. Dave advised Henry to give Scout families as much advance notice as possible.

As noted during a prior Troop Committee meeting, Henry intends to break the troop record of 41 merit badges earned by Eagle Scout Nick Walker (2003). His current count is 38. *[Followup: Success! Henry attended the Nov 19 District Merit Badge Fair and came home with 4 more completions, thus becoming the troop's new record holder with 42.]*

6. Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland

Aaron said that his written Eagle project proposal to honor Father Mike is very nearly complete, with just two workbook blanks to be filled in, after which he will ask for approval signatures from Father Chris, Marie, and Norman. The project will take place in the St. Francis Church rear patio, and will start by scrubbing down the wall on the patio's west side prior to repainting it. Aaron passed around photos of the patio showing the area reserved for the memorial, with its home-made bench surrounded by home-made planters, all of which will be constructed by Scouts supervised by Church parishioner Vinny Rossi. Lenny suggested stocking the planters with peace lilies.

Aaron said that the final stage of the project will be to videotape parishioners sitting on the bench and telling stories of Father Mike, with the results published as a DVD. His target date is late February or early March. Aaron said that the project will have expenses that he would like to cover by supervising the troop's annual Super Bowl Sunday bagging event at the local Acme. Lenny said he will hand-carry the workbook to an upcoming

Parish Council meeting where Father Chris will be able to read and sign his approval as the project's beneficiary. Aaron's last remaining Eagle-required merit badge is Communication. He will turn 18 in April 2018.

7. Will Pack 146 Accept Girls as Cub Scouts?

Last month BSA National announced that they voted to let girls into the program, starting with Cub Scout packs in September, and eventually to include Boy Scout troops. To start with, packs have been given a lot of latitude in how they want to proceed, including "No" to girls. The only restriction is that a given Cub den must be all-boy or all-girl.

Since there is no hurry, Norman proposed a Pack Committee meeting in late August or very early September to discuss the matter. If the Committee approves, the next step will be to ask current Cub parents to approve. After that would be an Open House where we see who shows up and see if we get enough interested recruits to form one or more new all-girl dens along with parents willing to sign up as their Den Leaders. Norman said that the last step could be the deal-breaker, based on how difficult it has been for local Girl Scout troops to sign up adult leaders, resulting in waiting lists.

Matt said that his daughter Megan is a Girl Scout and enjoys the program, but he said that the girl troop is "micro managed," presumably for safety reasons. He told how they refused all his offers to assist, even his offer to provide T-shirts. On the other hand, he appreciated how Pack 146 was happy to let Megan attend pack meetings and outings while Patrick was a Cub.

Although BSA National imposed just the one restriction above, Colum guessed that the Archdiocese may want to impose something additional, based on a recent directive to Catholic schools involving sports teams. Norman said he will follow up.

8. September Camping Trip - Overage (Sep 22-24)

Norman reported an overage of \$825 from the September joint camping trip, currently parked in our bank account. He said that he set the fee as \$30 for campers and \$20 for day-trippers based on numbers from the 2016 event. This year's 35 campers and 30 day-trippers resulted in far more money than needed to cover the expenses of groceries and camp fees for the cabin, tent site, dining hall, and kitchen.

9. October District Camporee - Friday the 13th Movie (Oct 13-15)

Scouts were Jack Nilsen, Henry Plotka, Niklas Tseng, and Ryan Womack. Adults were Norman and Bob, along with David Plotka for part of the weekend. On Saturday Scouts went around from station to station, some for fun, and some as competitions. We won the Obstacle Course competition thanks to Ryan, who finished in just 25 seconds with no penalties. On Saturday night all 400 attendees watched a screening of the "Friday the 13th" horror movie, portions of which were filmed at the camp where we stayed.

10. November Camping Trip - Wolf Preserve (Nov 10-12)

Boy Scouts were Nick Facchini and Zack Scheiman plus two little brother Cub Scouts, John Facchini and Noah Scheiman. Adults were Norman, Bob, Joe Facchini, Paul Scheiman, and Gretchen Scheiman. Zack was the steady cook, working on both First Class and the Camping merit badge. Saturday was spent on a rugged uphill hike in the Kittatinny Mountain range, followed by a fascinating tour of the Lakota Wolf Preserve. Past November camping trips usually take place in mild weather, but this time the nights were well below freezing, going as low as 18 degrees.

During the camping trip, Nick passed all requirements to reach Tenderfoot, but he is aware that his Board of Review will be delayed until December. Lenny pointed out that the Board will take place at the Multi Service Center during our very first Scout meeting there.

- 11. Upcoming December Camping Trip - Quartermaster Invitational (Dec 15-17)**
Bob runs this trip every year as a reward to the troop's Quartermasters: Nick Facchini, Gabriel Weaver, Patrick Groo, and Aidan Ward. Not clear is Tom Morgan, currently on a leave of absence while he and his family are temporarily away in California on business. Bob's tradition is to allow each QM to invite a friend, but nothing has been decided yet.
- 12. Veterans Day Service at Elysian Park (Nov 11)**
Norman passed around a photo showing our good turnout at the 11:00 AM Veterans Day service in Elysian Park, with Xavier Aniello, Jason Davidoff, Tige Mauseth, Henry Plotka, Niklas Tseng, and Aidan Ward. Also present was Aidan's Cub Scout brother Aneel Ward. The original plan called for a Boy Scout Color Guard, but that honor was instead given to the Police Department when they arrived.
- 13. Upcoming First Aid Rally (Nov 15)**
The annual District First Aid Rally will take place tomorrow evening in Kearny, hosted by Troop 302. We are hoping to bring home the trophy for the third year in a row, and have been prepping since September, with the final prep session taking place this evening while this Troop Committee meeting is in progress. Note that two prior prep sessions were missed due to no Scout meetings: Oct 31 due to Halloween, and Nov 7 due to a combination of Election Day plus a rain storm preventing meeting in the park. *[Follow-up: Due to logistical and transportation problems, Scouts arrived in Kearny too late to compete, yielding the trophy to Weehawken Troop 223.]*
- 14. Upcoming Pre-Thanksgiving 2-Day Food Drive (Nov 18-19)**
The drive will take place both days in front of the Hoboken ShopRite, 9:00-1:00, with all Hoboken Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts asked to participate. In past years, the beneficiary was the "In Jesus' Name" food pantry, run by April Harris, however, this year we may let April take the Saturday donations and let St. Francis take the Sunday donations. Lenny asked Norman to delay any decision until he had a chance to consult with the St. Francis Parish Council. *[Follow-up: The drive was extremely successful, possibly one of our best ever. April receive both days' donations and said that she actually had an overflow; that is, more food than could fit on her shelves. Cash donations of \$440 was also three or four times the amount received in past years.]*
- 15. Upcoming Interfaith Service (Nov 19)**
Ken verified that the Clergy Coalition will conduct its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this year at All Saints Church on Washington Street at 4:00 PM. He offered to find out if Scouts can provide the Color Guard. *[Followup: Jack Nilsen, Will Sytsma, and Aidan Ward attended.]*
- 16. Upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive (Jan 13, 2018)**
We have a firm commitment to run a January 13 blood drive in coordination with the Red Cross and St. Francis Church. We will shortly require a Boy Scout volunteer "Leader" to be our contact and coordinator with the Red Cross. Past leaders were Jason and Tige. The leader will receive a gift card and also have his name entered into a scholarship raffle. Jon said that Jason had received the gift card but didn't win the raffle, but remarked that the raffle odds were pretty good at around 600-to-1.
- 17. Personal Fitness Merit Badge Outdoor Portion (Oct through Jan)**
Eight Scouts signed up to attend the four monthly outdoor sessions: Xavier Aniello, Christian Englehardt, Nick Facchini, Tige Mauseth, Zack Scheiman, Niklas Tseng, Aidan Ward, and Ethan Zhang. Norman said that he was concerned that Scouts were not maintaining the 30-day logs that the merit badge requires.

18. Theater Merit Badge - A Local Production (Dec 3)

Merit badge counselor David Plotka arranged for Scouts and parents to attend a local production of "The 39 Steps." The play will be put on by the Mile Square Theater, and will be steeply discounted. Expected attendees are Xavier Aniello + 1, Charlie Greenwood + 1, Patrick Groo + 3, Henry Plotka + 1, Liam Richardson + 2, Will Sytsma + 2. Scouts were invited to stay after for a backstage tour and post-show discussion.

19. Preparing for Philmont (Aug 11-18, 2018)

As soon as this Committee meeting ends, Philmont attendees will conduct their first planning meeting, working out scheduling and other logistics. With 16 attendees, we had to split into two crews, with Matt Groo and Dan Weaver volunteering to be the adult advisors. Philmont received the first fee installment in October and will require us to send the final fee installment in March. Attendees are:

Youth	Adults
Xavier Aniello	Vincent Aniello
Jason Davidoff	Matt Groo
Christian Englehardt	Francis Howitt
Patrick Groo	Ted Mauseth
Aaron Kurland	David Plotka
Tige Mauseth	Colum Ward
Henry Plotka	Dan Weaver
Aidan Ward	
Gabriel Weaver	

Dan wondered if Philmont will treat our two crews as separate contingents or if we'll be allowed to act as one big group. He pointed out that our Scouts have a big range of ages and experience, and said that the Philmont guides will expect Scouts to take charge with adults standing by "as if on vacation." Dan said that there will be a planning meeting after this Committee meeting ends, and they will schedule a series of shakedown hikes in the spring, which will give everyone a chance to become more fit and to break in their boots.

20. 2017 Popcorn Sale - Profit from Using Order Forms

Troop 146 Scouts sold \$1,098 of which we get to keep \$351.36 as "commission".
Pack 146 Cubs sold \$7,802 of which they get to keep \$2496.64 as "commission".

The troop and pack can expect more commission money in the future from sales made using the Trail's End online system. Online salesmen were Xavier Aniello, Patrick Groo, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, and Ryan Womack. One of the Pack 146 salesmen logged over \$1,000, which entitles him to two tickets to an advance screening of the upcoming Star Wars 8 movie.

Norman said that the pack uses its popcorn profits to relieve families from paying dues. the money goes towards buying awards, giving all Cubs a subscription to Boys' Life magazine, subsidizing an expensive sleepover at the Liberty Science Center, and paying to cater the annual Blue-and-Gold banquet in March. Lenny insisted that the Elks Lodge kitchen must be approached first about providing the catering, and then go elsewhere if they decline.

21. Pack 146 Cubs to Meet with Mayor Zimmer (Nov 20)

The pack accepted an invitation from Mayor Zimmer to hear first hand how the city government works. In her note she said, "I talked to Lenny about having the Boy Scouts to City Hall in mid-Nov around 5 or 6 pm. ... Please let the cubs and scouts and parents know that I made the offer. I have had the Girl Scouts many, many times and would be glad to host the Boy Scouts."

22. Pack 146 Day Hikes (Nov 5 and Dec 3)

12 Cubs from Pack 146 and Pack 18 hiked with parents and siblings to the hilltop Torrey Memorial for a spectacular view of Harriman State Park below. From there they hiked to Turkey Hill Lake for a waterside picnic lunch. The next hike is scheduled for December 3 at historic Jockey Hollow. The outdoor event coordinator for both packs is Brendon McNamara.

23. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$2023.32

Current Scout balance: \$3084.67

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from September camping trip overage.

Money came in owed to the Plotka family from Scout summer camp.

Money went out to reimburse Bob for 3rd qtr expenses.

Money went out to reimburse the Morgan family from a Scout summer camp refund.

Expected expense: Reimburse the Plotka family from a Scout summer camp refund.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Popcorn money came in from gross retail sales.

Popcorn money expected to go out to reimburse Norman, leaving behind \$351.36 as "commission".

Prior Cub balance: \$1774.25


Current Cub balance: \$5313.25

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Popcorn money came in from gross retail sales.

Popcorn money expected to go out to reimburse Norman, leaving behind \$2496.64 as "commission".

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster