



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

March 13, 2018

To: Members and Friends of Boy Scout Troop 146

Here is a summary of the Troop Committee meeting and Board of Review that took place this evening in the Hoboken Multi Service Center. The next Committee meeting will take place on April 10, 2018 in the Multi Service Center.

1. **Part-1 - Present at Board of Review**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Norman Kasser
Jon Davidoff	Tom Muldowney
Joe Facchini	

Christian Englehardt was reviewed and passed for 2nd Class rank.

2. **Part-2 - Pack 146 Discussion about Letting Girls Register**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Kevin Mulcahy	Sonia Puri
Jon Davidoff	Tom Muldowney	Jeff Train
Joe Facchini	Chris Nastasi	Colum Ward
Norman Kasser		

Local Girl Scout Leaders

Mia Costic - Troop 10211
Zarah Pua - Troop 12001
Joanna Vasilakos - Troop 12021

2a. **Norman's Introduction**

BSA National has decided to allow girls to register as Cub Scouts starting in September, but it's not mandatory. The purpose of this meeting is to decide if Pack 146 is willing. If this meeting says, "Yes," we'll hold a second discussion with Pack 146 parents and also with Pack 146 youth. Norman said that BSA National has a mission to instill good character into youth, and the more members they have, the better. BSA National has also been morphing the Cub program from being boy-oriented to become family-oriented. Norman said that the target is not the Girl Scouts, which also does a good job of building character, but rather families currently not affiliated with any organization, especially families with both sons and daughters.

2b. **Why Were Local Girl Scout Leaders Invited to this Discussion**

Norman said that the Girl Scouts of America posted an angry response, titled, "The Boy Scouts' House is on Fire," which accused BSA of "financial mismanagement and deficient programming," and added, "We're the BEST leadership organization in the world for girls." Norman said, "Pack 146 is sponsored by St. Francis Church, and Father Chris absolutely does not want to have the Girl Scouts angry at St. Francis." All three Girl Scout leaders agreed that "Hoboken is different" and predicted no pushback from any local Girl Scout leaders. Also, they liked the idea of Hoboken having a family-oriented program.

Norman said, "There's a second reason we asked you to come, which is that you have dealt with girls and we haven't. Perhaps you can point out problems that we might run into and give us warnings." This second point led to a lengthy discussion.

The Girl Scout leaders were certain that none of the girls currently in a Girl Scout troop would switch to the Cub Scouts, saying, "They're in the middle of a journey."

2c. Why Were Pack 146 Den Leaders Invited to this Discussion

Norman said, "If we decide to allow girls into the program, the Den Leaders are the adults who will actually have to cope with any problems that arise. We need to get a feeling from the Den Leaders if they think this is a good idea."

2d. Will Pack 146 Turn into a Co-Ed Program?

Norman said, "BSA National made a pair of recommendations. First they recommended that Cub packs *not* aim for a co-ed program. Instead they recommended that a given pack should have an all-boy den of first grade Tigers and an all-girl den of first grade tigers. Similarly for second and third and fourth graders." However, Norman added, "This was a recommendation and not a mandate." This point led to a lengthy discussion.

2e. What if Not Enough Girls Join the Cubs?

Colum had a worry about getting started in September with single-gender dens, saying, "What if there's an all-boy den on one side of the room having the time of their lives, and there's just one or two new girls on the other side? It doesn't work with one or two kids. You need a tribe of at least 4 kids to have a healthy working den." Jeff insisted on having co-ed dens from the first day and Colum agreed. After this meeting ended, Lenny decided that the Open House must recruit at least 5 girls.

2f. What Will Happen to a Girl Who Ages out of the Cub Scout Program?

Norman called this problem his biggest worry, and said that it's currently the biggest unknown. He said that BSA National had reviewed the Cub Scout program and said it will be easy to integrate girls in with no change needed. On the other hand, they asked for a year or two to study how to best integrate girls into a Boy Scout troop. Norman said, "At some point in the future, Lenny will convene another meeting just like this one with the agenda, 'Will Boy Scout Troop 146 accept girls.'"

Norman said, "Assuming that Pack 146 gets the green light, we will get a few 4th grade girls into Pack 146 in September 2018. Then they'll continue in the pack as 5th graders in September 2019. Then we'll have a bridge ceremony in March 2020 as they age out." Norman said, "I don't know what will happen then, and, at this point, neither does BSA National."

Norman continued, "Imagine that a 5th grade girl graduates out of Pack 146, and that Troop 146 has decided on boys only. What do we tell her? One possibility is to tell her to join a Girl Scout troop and try to earn a Gold Award. Another possibility might be to recommend a Boy Scout troop in Secaucus or Bayonne that had voted to take in girls."

Norman continued, "Why might a girl be willing to commute to Secaucus? The answer is that she will have the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout." Norman allowed that a Girl Scout Gold Award will look impressive on a resume, but insisted that "Eagle Scout" will look far more impressive. The comparison between Gold and Eagle led to another lengthy discussion.

2g. Conclusion: Okay to Proceed to the Next Step

We will proceed to the next step, which is to hold a similar discussion among the current parents of Pack 146 Cubs, followed by allowing the current youth Cub Scouts to voice their opinions. If that meeting says, "Yes," then we will publicize an Open House event to take place in September. Mia advised "being open and honest" about the two unknowns just discussed: How will single-gender dens work out? And what will happen when a girl ages out of the Cub program? Mia also offered to come to a Cub meeting and "help get things up and running."

Part-3: There was not enough time to discuss the agenda items below.

3. Jason's Upcoming Eagle Ceremony (Tentative for May 12)

Jon Davidoff proposed the afternoon of Saturday May 12 for Jason's Eagle Court of Honor, and Ken Nilsen said he will try to reserve St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Norman said that he had e-mailed Jacob Grossbard and his parents, asking them to check their family calendars so that we can schedule our next ceremony.

4. Eagle Status for Henry Plotka

Henry needs to schedule one more event at the former YMCA, where his Eagle project took place in January, so that it looks less like a pure work project. The event will be a "photo op" where Henry will invite the building's current residents to coffee and doughnuts, and have them briefed about the project and about future plans. As soon as that is done, Henry can fill out the final paperwork needed to schedule an Eagle Board of Review. Henry will turn 18 in August 2019.

5. Eagle Status for Aaron Kurland (Tentative for April 7 + 8)

Aaron already did Part-1 of his Eagle project, which was a bake sale at St. Francis Church on March 4. He raised exactly \$600, which will pay for a stone bench and other materials needed for Part-2, the creation of a meditation garden in the St. Francis rear patio to honor the memory of Father Mike Guglielmelli. Just prior to the sale, 11 Scouts attended the 9:30 AM Mass, where Father Chris had nice words to say about the Scouts and urged other boys in attendance to join. Then Lenny took to the pulpit to describe Aaron's plans for the garden, including the plan to videotape parishioners as they sit on the bench and reminisce about Father Mike. Aaron's last remaining Eagle-required merit badge is Communication. He will turn 18 in April 2018.

6. Two Cub Bridge Ceremonies (Mar 4 and Upcoming Mar 14)

This month we expect to register 14 new Boy Scouts. Three from Cubs Scout Pack 18 have already gone through a bridge ceremony and are now Boy Scouts. Eleven more from Pack 146 were scheduled to bridge on March 7, but that ceremony was postponed to March 14 due to a nor'easter blizzard. Both bridge ceremonies are traditionally accompanied by a catered Blue-and-Gold banquet. Pack 18 was catered by a kosher deli, and Pack 146 will serve a gourmet Italian buffet catered by Margherita's restaurant. Norman said we first asked the Elks Lodge to cater, but they declined.

Normally Cubs must first cross the bridge in order to become Boy Scouts, but, because of the postponement, Norman said that he invited the 11 from Pack 146 to start attending Boy Scout meetings immediately, saying, "Consider yourselves to be Boy Scouts now, even with no bridge ceremony." He was disappointed when only two of the 14 attended last week's Scout meeting: Frankie Sanchez (Pack 18) and John Facchini (Pack 146).

While tonight's Committee meeting is going on, Scouts will hold a Patrol Leader election, resulting in two patrols of new Scouts and two patrols of older Scouts. Not eligible to run are Will Sytsma and Tige Mauseth, who have already served four and three terms respectively. Instead they will be promoted to the leadership position of "Troop Guide," and each will be assigned to one of the two new-boy patrols, with the job of getting those patrols and Patrol Leaders off to a good start.

7. A Change to the Agenda of Tuesday Scout Meetings

Starting in January 2017, BSA National revised and enlarged the requirement set for Scouts working on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, making all three much more difficult to reach. As a result, Norman said that more time has been devoted to working on advancement during Scout Tuesday meetings, but added, "The downside is that we run the risk of making Scouts too much like school, and that the program stops being fun."

Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman volunteered to address the issue and proposed a few changes that we've been experimenting with for the past few Tuesdays.

- o Run breakout advancement sessions with just a few Scouts in each group. This takes advantage of our recently having more active adults present each Tuesday.
- o Create a set of games and competitions based on using Scout skills that are also advancement-required skills. Last week Scouts competed in "The Cannibal Rescue" game, which required learning how to tie a bowline knot, and how to coil and throw a long rope.
- o Assign a given patrol the job of creating a skit that teaches a Scout skill. Last week the People's Republic Patrol did a genuinely funny skit that showed how to perform CPR. Gretchen had a second goal in mind for these skits, which was to get patrols to work on a task together in order to create more "patrol spirit."
- o Give recognition to a patrol that wins a competition or that creates a successful skit. We decided to award a green ribbon to each week's winning patrol that they can display on their flagpole.

8. February Ski Weekend (Feb 16-19)

This was a successful weekend with many thanks to Gabriel's parents, Dan Weaver and Paula Weinpahl, who agreed to bunk and feed eight Scouts for the weekend: In addition to Gabriel, Scouts were Xavier Aniello, Patrick Groo, Tige Mauseth, Henry Plotka, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, and Ryan Womack. The skiing and snowboarding took place at Belleayre Mountain.

9. March Ski Weekend Canceled (was Mar 9-11)

We had to cancel the March ski weekend when the Ranger at Resica Falls Scout Reservation informed Norman that the entire camp was closed due to fallen trees. A Plan-B attempt to convert the weekend into a simple winter cabin camping trip also didn't work out. Note that our troop has attended Shawnee Mountain's Scout Ski Weekend every year since 2000, relying on cheap lodging to keep the price affordable.

10. Upcoming March Court of Honor (Mar 27)

The highlight of the March Court of Honor will be the formal induction of our 14 newest Boy Scouts. 13 will also receive a "Scout" badge of rank, an automatic promotion given to any Cub Scout who earned a Arrow of Light badge. Erick Cando, who was not a Cub, will also receive a Scout rank badge. Position patches will be presented to the new Patrol Leaders and their assistants, and also to Tige and Will, our new Troop Guides. Aidan Ward will receive the troop's "Chef Extraordinaire" award for a feast he prepared last January. Recently earned merit badges will go to Henry Plotka, Tige Mauseth, and new Scouts Victor Mauseth and Daniel Nemeth.

11. Ongoing Sustainability Merit Badge

Nick Walker (Eagle Scout 2003) conducted his first session of perhaps 4 or 5 for Scouts interested in earning the Eagle-required Sustainability merit badge. Six signed up with Nick, who ended the session with a homework assignment. Note that several merit badge requirements call for the Scout to consult with his family about how they deal with water, food, community, energy, and family purchases.

12. Ongoing Work on Religious Awards

Bob has already held three sessions for Scouts interested in earning the Catholic religious award, Ad Altare Dei. His sessions take place just prior to each Tuesday Scout meeting, starting at 6:00 PM and ending at 7:00. Attending are Nick Facchini, Patrick Groo, Liam Richardson, Aidan Ward, and Ethan Zhang.

13. Planning for the Philmont Trek (Aug 10-18)

The 9 Scouts and 7 adults planning to go to Philmont in August spent their most recent planning meeting selecting which Philmont itinerary they will follow when they arrive in the camp. The meeting was chaired by Aaron Kurland, who announced, "We're not going home tonight until we have decided." They also decided on a change to the adult "Crew Advisors." The 16 will split into two crews of 8, with Matt Groo as one advisor and David Plotka taking over from Dan Weaver as the second advisor.

14. Formal Recognition to Two Cub Scout Den Leaders (Apr 22)

Cub dad Ted Mauseth was very impressed with the adult leadership in charge of the Pack 146 "Arrow of Light" den, Colum Ward and Joe Facchini, and proposed giving them formal recognition. Norman suggested and Lenny agreed to presenting each with a "District Service to Scouting" award at a formal annual banquet scheduled to take place in Paramus on April 22. A Den Leader from Pack 18 will also be honored at the same banquet: Gretchen's husband Paul Scheiman.

15. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$946.43
Current Scout balance: \$1519.16
Money came in from bagging at Acme.
Money came in from adult registrations.
Money came in from troop dues.
Money came in from History-CD sales.
Money went out for a new checkbook.
Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$3545.41
Current Cub balance: \$3545.41 (no change)
Expected expense: Blue-and-Gold banquet.
Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster