



Property Meeting
November 18, 2010
6:30 pm-8 pm
Service Center-Fort Myers

Welcome

Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. The group accepted a request to add time to the property questions section.

Engagement expectations

Cells on silent. Consideration. Listening. No “after meeting” “parking lot” meetings- hold discussions within time frame of meeting agenda. Honor time. One voice at a time.

Roles for the meeting were set

Secretary- Minutes

Keeper of Sisterhood- Be a sister to every Girl Scout

Keeper of Mission- Keep mission and Girl Led in front of discussion

The Promise and Law were stated

Information

There were no additions/corrections to minutes from October meeting

Updates on property since last meeting:

Melissa Mason

- Routine Health Department Inspection on 10/28 with 3 violations, all repairs were completed by 11/2
 - 1 ripped mattress cover
 - 1 hole in screen
 - 1 unfinished wall board in a bathroom
- House on property has officially been emptied of personal belongings and cleaned.
- Arrow Pest Control was on property 10/26 and treated for palmetto bugs, cockroaches, termites and fire ants.
- Twice weekly water testing is now being done by an outside group and cracked pipe has been replaced.
- New confirmation directions have been written to address concerns on items volunteers are now more responsible to do themselves.
- A check out form, addressing any functional issues, is now provided. This should be completed and dropped at entrance (the importance of this was stressed as not all issues are visible when a property ranger does a walk-thru.)

- Met with Chief Nisbet on November 9th and addressed the following:
 - He asked that phones be moved to a more visible location. Phone company was contacted and an appointment was made to add jacks in lodge and chalet on Friday, 11/19.
 - Door at top of Chalet (girl's entrance) opened in and needs to open out. Was fixed on 11/12
 - Smoke detectors in adult section of chalet and Pelican/Flamingo need to be added. Scheduled for 11/19
 - Cabin "4" in both Pelican and Flamingo had too many beds. Bunks (6 beds) were removed from each.
 - Chalet bed count lowered to 16 in the chalet.
 - Gate needs to open with a different siren system; current still works in an emergency. To be addressed.
 - All smoke detectors are to be wired into pull stations. To be addressed.
 - Emergency evacuation plan /emergency procedure for girls in camp.
 - Chief also offered to do fire training in the future for the "weekend person."
- Brand new tents were purchased to replace old tents.
- Picnic tables have been purchased and will be ready for assembly.

Sue Stewart:

- It is critical that we adhere to high standards for our properties not only because we believe it is right, but we have responsibility to outside agencies such as health department, fire, etc. Processes to insure girl and property safety have been reintroduced. All properties to have monthly inspections. Simplifying procedures and continuity for all properties.
- A donor answered the wish list and is contributing a shelter for kayaks & canoes. There has been interest from others to support environmental programming at Caloosa and Honi.
- Weekend personnel suggestions are under consideration, no decision yet.
- Only the 1st floor office of the house is being used at this time which lends the opportunity to allow weekend support staff/volunteers a place to stay . Also considering offering alumni or others to use property, to bring in motor home or other living options. Volunteers will be appropriately screened.

Questions and Answers:

Question: Weather Radio availability? Melissa Mason (MM): Will follow-up

Issue: Care needs to be given to calling 911 and which tower receives a call (not necessarily in Fort Myers)

MM: Important for leaders to know emergency procedures. Land Line availability and use important.

Question: Where is wish list published? Sue Stewart (SS): Currently in Donor newsletter. Will consider for Facebook, website and Cybernews.

Question: Who does the monthly inspections?

SS: Staff, mainly Dale and Scott based on a scripted checklist.

Rock Aboujaode, Board member, spoke about his role in coordinating the work of the former Caloosa task group and in assisting with the management of the permitting process. Rock shared that we need to put the descriptors and divisiveness of “north and south” out of our shared vocabulary and move forward in the best interest of girls. The permitting process took longer than expected in terms of the timbering process. Members of the Caloosa task force shared that they had looked at all possibilities for use and direction for the property, dreams were shared about the potential of the camp, but agreed that the economy has changed significantly-prioritizing the needs for the camp to be oriented toward the stewardship of the land and “present-future” focused.

Responses to issues and questions submitted prior to the meeting:

- 1) The Caloosa Task force was a short term work group from April 5 2008- Nov 21, 2009. Original membership consisted of 6 board members, 17 operational volunteers, 4 staff and 1 community volunteer/planner. The purpose of the committee was to work with our board member, Rock, a professional civil engineer to provide an evaluation of the schmidtcoopeleandparkerstevens plan and a recommendation for the future land use of Camp Caloosa. The committee made a recommendation to the GSGCF board of directors, with a motion approved by the board in December 2009.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sandi Stewart

1. The CEO and Director of Property recommend the approval of the following scope of land management work at Camp Caloosa: 1) Hire a contractor to do timber harvest, 2) Hire a contractor to do clean up, 3) Plant trees from a grant provided by Michael Weston, Department of Forestry, and 4) Purchase and plant additional trees at a discount through M. Weston contact. Motion made by Nancy Gorski and seconded. Discussion followed and Sandi reported that the Caloosa Task Group met on November 21 and voted to go forward with the work. Rock moved to amend the motion by inserting the following text after Camp Caloosa: subject to getting the proper permits. Motion to amend seconded and carried. The CEO and Director of Property recommend the approval of the following scope of land management work at Camp Caloosa subject to getting the proper permits: 1) Hire a contractor to do timber harvest, 2) Hire a contractor to do clean up, 3) Plant trees from a grant provided by Michael Weston, Department of Forestry, and 4) Purchase and plant additional trees at a discount through M. Weston contact. All in favor of motion as amended and carried.

2) Is the "Westin" on the board any relation to the Westin in the department of forestry? Patrice Weston (Board Member) and Michael Weston (Department of Forestry) are not related....

3) How much money is to be made from the harvest of timber? There is no money being made from the harvest. If there is any revenue it will go back to the removal of the exotics and other clean up work. There was no commitment by the board or plan to have a dining hall at Caloosa. The plan for Caloosa is land management at this time. The board will be developing a long range property plan for the council within the next year

4) What is the board's long term plan for Caloosa?. Long term board plan will be under consideration as part of the Strategic Learning process. In the past four months at Caloosa we have done extensive clean up and repair, implemented the capital budget, reviewed

and revised policies. We are currently working directly with the fire marshal and health departments. We are on track for basic and maintenance improvements.

5) Why has membership recruitment become a task for troop leaders and neighborhoods in the last two years instead a function of paid staff. And why are the membership numbers recently become so critical? Membership recruitment has always and will always be a joint effort between staff and volunteers. Volunteers are the best recruiters, as are girls, when they tell the positive values and stories of Girl Scouting...and get that Girl Scout “virus” going. We do not, nor will we ever have enough staff. Membership numbers are the most critical factor for our long term success. All girls need access to Girl Scouting and the premier leadership experience.

Discussion continued on creative use of Camp Caloosa focused on the environment and use of the land. Past wish list items for Caloosa were mentioned, however these were ideas generated during “gravy train period” and due to changing times had to be re-prioritized by the task force. Many on the task force expressed they were appreciative of some delays which allowed re-visioning due to economy and to stay on track. A thank you was given to Rock for his commitment to council property.

Questions and Answers:

Question: When will timber harvesting begin? SS: No exact date yet.

Question: Is water safe? MM: Yes, contactor has been hired and testing is good.

Question: Is a staff member there? SS: No, our goal is to have someone available on weekends who may be a volunteer or paid a stipend.

Question: If money for the shed (which has since been donated) was a capital item can the dollars be reallocated for something else at Caloosa?

SS: No, the board has approved specific capital budget expenses for this year and monies cannot be reallocated.

Question: Can I or another donor designate funds specifically for use at Caloosa?

SS: Yes. Donations and unrestricted gifts should support the short and long range plans for a property.

Question: Are membership demographics available?

Debbie McDowell-Tate (DMT): Information is available through Service Unit Managers.

Ideas and Suggestions:

- ✓ Make capital and operating priority lists public (target April and the work of the Strategic Learning Task Group)
- ✓ Make wish lists public on the website and part of newsletters so that troops, groups and community groups can support the camps
- ✓ Continue emphasis on open communication and transparency

- ✓ Value that all our properties are unique and diverse, have different “personalities” that serve different purposes
- ✓ Need balance of program offerings by geography
- ✓ Continue process to reduce amount of paperwork volunteers need to complete

Creative Ideas: Camp Caloosa Property and Programs-deferred to January 2011 meeting

Next Meeting:

January 19th (Wednesday) at 6:30

Service Center Fort Myers

Melissa Mason will be facilitating