



170 St. James RCACS Sponsoring Committee

Meeting minutes for Friday, November 8, 2019 – Parents General Meeting

In Attendance:

Ron Enns	Kim Swiderski	France Cote Marshall
Glen Finlayson	Mario Salta	Sandina Buscemi
Lorraine Milan	Kristen Rouire	Sherri Glazier
Jasbir Boparai	Lorne Rouire	Valerie Bermudez
Lakhvir Sandhu	Gurdeet Saini	Ramon Camus
Kirsten Reimer	Gurminder Saini	Lana Jorgensen
Karen Friesen	Cathy Fernandez	Gagan Wijeaecra
Brad Boyd	Zaldy Fernandez	
Rob Reimer	Michelle Araquil	

1. Call Meeting to Order – 1900 Hrs.
2. Chairperson’s Opening Remarks – Welcome to the meeting, thanks to all who could attend!
-The members of the SSC introduced themselves for any new parents in attendance
3. Items to be added to the Agenda – items added under “new business”
4. Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting: copies available on request
- Kirsten motioned to accept, Karen seconded, motion carried
5. Correspondence – None at this time
6. Committee reports:
 - a) Commanding Officer’s report – Blake Minaker
-The state of the sqn is good. We are at 130 cadets on strength, we have 35 cadets in each level, and this is by design, so as to not overwhelm instructors and give cadets a better experience. Summer training sessions are being held in Building 135 on 22-Nov-2019
 - b) Treasurer – Kirsten Reimer
-Report available upon request, taxes are nearly ready to be filed, ACC9 is handed in.
 - c) Canteen – Sherri Glazier
-Report available upon request, Munther Zeid is still donating fruit for the cadets in the form of Apples, Oranges and Bananas, which are given for free to the cadets.
 - d) Fundraising – Sandina Buscemi
-Tag day was a big success, Sandina explained that Tag Day is a day where 170’s cadets stand in the entryways of businesses and receive no-pressure donations from shoppers.

Motion raised by Rob Reimer to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Mon, motion carried

7. Old Business

1. Manitoba Air Cadet Concert Band
 - The program runs from 6-9:30 on Saturday nights at the church on Thompson & Portage, 6-7:30 is junior band, the rest of the time is senior band.
2. Effective Speaking & Toastmasters
 - Toastmasters youth leadership program is underway, we are in week 2 of 10, and the program is running Sundays from 11:00-12:30 and is open to any level of public speaker from beginner to expert. This program is a good primer for the effective speaking competition held February 2, 2020. Enrollment in Toastmasters is not required for the competition. The competition will take 3-4 Hrs. depending on number of speakers. The winners of the competition will move on to the provincial competition held by the Air Cadet League 17-Mar-2020.
3. Tabs for Harley – Harley’s family came to Building 21 to collect 2 70L tubs of can tabs which go toward purchasing Harley’s wheelchairs as Harley outgrows them.
4. Mess Dinner – This item should have been removed from the agenda.
5. First Aid – We are running a first aid program 23&24 Nov, 2019. We have 18 cadets registered, but only spots for 12. The selection will be based on seniority. Because there is so much interest, we are looking at running a second offering in the spring. We will need to determine whether or not the teacher would be willing & able to run another class.
6. MOU – This item should have been removed from the agenda
7. Squadron trip – What is the date/timing/itinerary? The SSC is looking for suggestions of where to send the cadets so that a proposal can be made for the trip. Capt. Boxshall is also looking at trips, so the entire proposal isn’t the responsibility of the parents, but more proposals would help.

-Question was raised – what is involved in the trip, and what parent involvement is needed to make it successful?

Capt. Minaker explained that the trip is geared toward stewardship, and parent involvement isn’t expressly required. The SSC essentially pays for the trip, and the staff would arrange the trip. The idea is that if the trip is somewhat local, the cost would be covered by the SSC. If the trip was longer (international flights, etc.), the SSC would cover some of the cost, and cadets would cover the rest.

Ultimately, with a sqn. This size, the organization of a trip is significantly more difficult than for some smaller sqns.. This is why we need some help with the selection and planning of any trip.

Mon suggested visiting Mynott AFB, which would be the same type of situation as Grand Forks AFB.

Anyone with suggestions can email the chair with inquiries or suggestions.

8. New Business: (Items 1 & 2 were on the agenda as old business in error)
 1. Epicure
 - Fundraising is obviously beneficial for the Sqn., and we have a new opportunity for fundraising through Epicure, consisting of two \$20 packages containing dips, and a \$25 package of dessert. It's a nutritional option for fundraising, and after \$250 of sales, it doesn't matter what package is purchased, the sqn. automatically gets 40% profit towards the SSC. If we were to do this now, we could have the orders by Holiday season.
 - We would like to make this an optional fundraiser, and would like to put it to a vote – Show of hands indicated 5 people in attendance would like to participate.

 - Another fundraising option would be a wine raffle, where we would get families to donate a bottle of wine, and we would bundle the bottles to make prize packages and only get parents to sell tickets for the raffle. How much interest is there in doing this type of raffle?
Suggestion raised to limit the amount of prizes to 3, and make them large prizes. Tickets can be sold 3 for \$2.
Show of hands indicated that 12 people in attendance would be interested in the wine raffle.
 - Capt. Minaker reminded all in attendance that the costs of the squadron are very low, and we are easily covering our operating costs, so fundraising isn't essential for the squadron right now. This information is shared in the interest of taking the pressure off of parents considering that there are typically a lot of fundraising activities at this time of year. The suggestion would be to pilot the wine raffle in spring.
 2. Vote in new secretary
 - Lorraine has put her name forward, no nominations from the floor, Lorraine will be our new secretary! Thank you Lorraine!
 3. Screening
 - We discussed the matter of screening and decided to put any debate around screening to rest. We are performing our due diligence in our current method of screening, and are compliant with the rules and regulations of the league. We voted on this at the last SSC meeting, and the issue is being put to rest after much debate within the squadron.
 4. Item Added by Capt. Minaker – Parent Feedback
 - Capt. Minaker would like to know how parents feel the staff are doing with the training, and if the cadets are enjoying their time with the squadron.
 - Suggestion is that the parents get emails from the squadron about activities. Information was shared that there is a mailing list that parents can sign up for on the website.

-Uniforms – When are the uniforms coming in? Uniforms should be coming in in about 3 weeks, as we had actually run out of points for uniform pieces. There is also a fair amount of kit in stock, and cadets can go see Capt. Enright at any time.

-Announcements – The parents are having trouble hearing the announcements at the end of the night. Capt. Minaker indicated that the announcements are available on the website each week for those who can't hear them.

November 11 – What is required? Capt. Minaker indicated that the cadets need to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony, be it the main ceremony at the convention centre, or a community service.

-Gliding – Typically gliding has been an issue with getting all cadets up in the air, and cadets are often left bored on the ground if unable to fly. Capt. Minaker is working on having more activities available for cadets if they are not able to get up in the air. The squadron is working on finding another site to hold gliding, as the weather in Gimli is not very conducive to gliding and results in many cancellations. This may take 3-5 years, but we are working on it.

-Congratulations to the squadron – parents are seeing results in their children's behavior. They are more respectful, attentive and responsible, so the staff are doing a great job forming these young people.

-For new parents, it would be good to have an information packet indicating where more information can be found about the squadron.

-This is a very popular squadron, and schools are suggesting the squadron for kids to partake in because it's a very good squadron.

9 Next Parents' General Meeting – January 10, 2020

10 Meeting Adjournment – Motion to adjourn raised by Brad, seconded by Kirsten, meeting adjourned at 20:20Hrs.