



GARDEN CREEK HOME AND SCHOOL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Garden Creek School Library, 6:30 pm

Attendees

1. Brittnie Campbell
2. Stephanie Elkins
3. Scott Elvin
4. Marcia Franklin
5. Leanne Greene
6. Andy Han
7. Nicki MacPherson
8. Emma O'Connor
9. Christine Ritchie
10. Samantha Robichaud
11. Deana Sarchfield
12. Lily Smallwood
13. Rebekah Thompson
14. Jennifer Ward
15. Julie Werner
16. Melissa Wheaton
17. Amy White

Welcome and Introductions

- Current Executive Team:
 - Rebekah Thompson (Vice President)
 - Andy Han (Treasurer)
 - Julie Werner (Daytime Event Executive)
 - Lily Smallwood (Outdoor Learning/Garden Club Executive)
 - Absent: Cheyenne Dickenson (Nighttime Event Executive)

Election of New Executive Members – Approval: 1st Julie Werner, 2nd Rebekah Thompson

- Newly Elected Executive:
 - Andy Han (President)
 - Jennifer Ward (Treasurer)
 - Marcia Franklin (Secretary)

Treasurer's Report

- Currently have just over \$3700 in the bank.
- Previously GC Home and School ensured there was at least \$4000 at the beginning of the year, but the Committee opted for a smaller opening balance this year in order to make a larger donation (\$21,000) to the Lily Pad Project last year.

Teacher/School Update

- Lily Pad Legacy Update:
 - August was very rainy, so the project is running behind, but the school is hoping for the playground to open in the next couple of weeks. More upgrades may be planned for Phase 2 of the project, such as a pickleball court, etc.
 - The focus of Home and School's fundraising efforts this year are more upgrades to the playground (Phase 2).
- Needs/Wants:
 - Support for teachers and EAs, specifically for classroom supplies that are not supplies that the students take home.
 - This was not done last year as there were additional funds available and it was not required.
 - There are 17 teachers/classrooms, 5 additional teachers, and 8 EAs.
 - In the past a budget of \$100 per teacher/EA was given.
 - GC Home and School is not ready to commit to this yet but will reevaluate once raising money.
 - **Action:** Add as a discussion item to the next agenda.
 - School fees may go up next year to combat costs.

Briefing on Major Annual Fundraisers

- The Holiday Bazaar and the Spring Raffle are the two major events.
 - Bazaar Overview:
 - The Bazaar raised just under \$15,000 last year, which is typical.
 - It is the school community's favourite fundraising event.
 - Entry is free. Tickets are \$1, with entry into various "event stations" via 1 or 2 tickets. There are also a range of raffles and silent auctions. GC Home and School runs all the event stations, such as the cake walk, fishpond, etc. There is a binder that outlines all event stations and details for running each station that will be shared at the Bazaar meeting.
 - There is a schedule, and a lead for each event station. Each volunteer will only be responsible for one event.
 - Spring Raffle Overview:
 - The Spring Raffle raised \$3500 last year. It has raised up to \$5000 in the past.
 - GC Home and School will canvas for prizes (such as gift card baskets) and there is a raffle that committee members sell tickets for.
 - Selling online/going cashless is preferred.
- The GC Home and School also does additional fundraisers, such as the coffee fundraiser that is currently underway and Scott's Nursery.

Planning Event Dates

- Coffee
 - This is currently underway. **Orders need to be in by Sept 26th.**
- Mitchell's Soup
 - This is a new event. If more than 200 bags of soup are sold, GC Home and School will only pay \$7 a bag. Bags would then be sold for \$12 each or 3 for \$30.
 - Turnaround time on the soups is 2-3 weeks from the orders going in.
 - **Decision Made: Forms out Oct 11th and due back Monday, October 23rd.**
- Halloween at the Creek
 - This event started once Alex Yaychuk joined as Principal.
 - GC Home and School members decorate the school in preparation for a celebration during school on Halloween.
 - Previously, treat bags were prepared. This was done largely for Covid and **will no longer happen moving forward.**
 - Donations of Halloween decorations are welcome.
 - Inflatables for the school would be very nice to have.
 - **Decision Made: Decorating will happen on Monday, October 30th.**
- Bazaar
 - Planned for **Saturday, December 2nd from 11-1** (*to avoid both Black Friday and the PD Day Nov 24th*)
 - Asks for the Bazaar happen throughout November, such as the wreath and poinsettia order forms in early Nov, followed by Santa's Workshop, theme baskets, baking pledge sheets, etc.
- Tailored Tots
 - A parent at GC creates personalized Bento boxes and cutlery for children, which is a potential fundraising opportunity (and ran successfully in the Spring last school year).
 - Discussed collecting orders for these in November, to have in time for Christmas. However, there was concern that there may be too many events before the Bazaar already.
 - **Decision Made: Tailored Tots will run in the Spring, potentially around Easter.**
 - **Action:** Rebekah to contact Tailored Tots to discuss timing of fundraiser.
- Spring Raffle
 - **To consider:** Tying something into the Spring Raffle that drives revenue and builds community, such as a ticketed outdoor fair. Could include bouncy castles, cotton candy, etc.
 - **Action:** Leanne mentioned a possible fundraising opportunity through Steele Hyundai and will investigate in more detail.
- Movie Nights
 - Cheyenne organizes the nights for movies and is working on dates for the whole year.
 - Four movies were shown last year.
 - Entry is by donation. Attendees can donate as desired and GC Home and School sells water, popcorn, and candy. The last two years Andy has run the popcorn with Cheyenne.
 - **To consider: Possible movie night for Halloween on Friday, October 27th?**
 - **Action:** Andy will check to see if the license is still valid from the end of last year.

- **Action:** Volunteers needed.
 - **Action:** Movie suggestions needed.
 - *Hotel Transylvania?*
 - *Coco?*
 - *Elemental?*
 - **To consider:** Samantha shared that one of Alex's goals is to buy and mount a projector in the gym. Perhaps people could donate at a movie night with the awareness that donations will go towards a projector?
- Establish Bazaar Committee
 - Committee will be established at a separate Bazaar meeting.
 - **Decision Made: Bazaar Meeting will be Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30.**
 - Brittne and Emma cannot attend, but both want to participate.
 - **Action:** Andy will bring the Bazaar binder.
- Meet the Teacher BBQ Volunteers
 - BBQ is tomorrow, September 20th.
 - Alex will begin BBQing at 3pm. He has enough BBQs and could use 2-3 more volunteers to assist with cooking the food.
 - **Action:** Brittne to attend and assist.
 - **To consider:** Sharing flyers/information about GC Home and School at the BBQ.
- Other Business
 - Discussed bottle drives – they are done by the teachers.
 - Discussed the Breakfast Club.
 - Needs more volunteers, as there are only 5 and as many as 40 children come through. Volunteers need to be at the school by 7:40am and are done by about 8:30. They help to serve food, monitor, and clean up. It can be any parent who helps; it's not limited to the GC Home and School Committee.
 - Alex buys the food, as there is a grant for the program. He is also the primary contact and coordinator.
 - **To consider:** Creating a shared calendar for the Breakfast Club volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Submitted by Marcia Franklin

Garden Creek Home & School Association