

**Meeting Minutes - Farmington Friends of Robotics
October 12, 2016 - Farmington Public Library, 7:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Barron, Fred Choi, Michele Hall, Mark Hofmann, Jin Kim, Kevin Krusz, Christine McCluskey, David McCluskey, Marybeth Petersen, Scott Petersen, Linda Scalzo, Richard Scalzo, Tom Schneider.

Meeting called to order at 7:14 by Linda Scalzo.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting. (Scalzo, R. and Petersen, S.). Motion passed unopposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Linda Scalzo):

The team and FOR had several events recently:

- Unionville Festival - Team, FLL, FLL Jr., FOR all had a presence. Our table generated a lot of interest and we signed up two new members for FOR.
- New member orientation and safety training was held at the annex. FOR had a presence to increase awareness and membership.
- Maker Faire at Tunxis Community College - FOR and team both had a presence.

Linda mentioned there was some confusion about the new district-required background check policy. Linda reiterated that the policy was put in place by the Board of Education, effective July 1, 2016. As a result, all volunteers helping with any school-related club, group, or activity are required by the Board of Education to complete a mandatory background check. Questions regarding this mandatory requirement can be addressed to Tim Barron, Michele Hall, or the Superintendent's office.

Discussion around the use of STIMS (FIRST's background check) being an acceptable background check. Tim said that STIMS is acceptable, however, the district background check will be effective for 5 years and apply to all groups involved with Farmington Public Schools, not just Robotics.

Amazon Smile is now active and easy to use. Encourage people to use the link when making online purchases.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Christine McCluskey):

Balance as of September 1, 2016 was \$1,766.39, income from new memberships was \$576.00, expenses (credit card processing fees) were \$16.46, ending balance as of September 30, 2016 \$2,325.93.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

MEMBERSHIP (Marybeth Petersen and Lisa Nollman):

No report.

COMMITTEE UPDATES (Linda Scalzo):

Linda said we currently need volunteers for the following committees:

- Public Relations
- Volunteer Coordination
- Raffle
- Fundraising
- Finance Committee – needs one more member

Mark Hofmann and Lisa Nollman volunteered to be on the Fundraising Committee.

RAFFLE PLANNING (Christine McCluskey and Linda Scalzo):

All prizes have been acquired. Christine is filling out required paperwork to send to the State of CT. Once paperwork is filed and accepted we will be ready to proceed with the raffle.

Jean DaSilva, Melinda and Kevin Krusz are heading up raffle selling locations. The following locations were discussed:

- Polling places on election day. Kevin will contact town hall for permission.
- Elementary school parent teacher conference time. Kevin will look into this.
- The Music Department poinsettia pick-up is the first weekend in December at FHS and draws a lot of traffic. Linda will ask if we can sell raffle tickets at the pickup. Will need student and parent volunteer help.
- The Jr. FLL Parent meeting - location to sell raffle tickets and for FOR to have a presence. Marybeth will ask Lisa Nollman if this can be done.
- Craft fair at West District School - would it be worthwhile to buy a table or ask permission to sell at the craft fair. Christine will look into this.
- Unionville Jingle Bell Jubilee - Kevin will pursue.

The raffle drawing will be held on December 13 at the Annex.

PASTA DINNER UPDATE (Linda Scalzo):

Scheduled for November 4 at FHS.

Event needs to be publicized better - discussion was to promote it as a fun family night out - come play with the robot and do fun science related activities.

The following promotional plan was created:

- Friday Folders - Michele said the team will send a notice out through the superintendent's office.
- Team will promote on the 9:05 News at FHS
- Marybeth will submit to newspapers: Hartford Courant, Farmington Life, Patch, etc.
- Marybeth will ask about promoting the event using the sign at the bottom of Monteith Drive.
- Marybeth will ask the football coach to promote our pasta supper which is on the same night as the pasta dinner.

Tim said this event has not raised funds in the past, has been more of a community event, but if promoting the event to people outside our group will help raise money, that would be great!

Restaurant donations needed - Scott suggested having a student take on the responsibility of receiving donations. Michele will ask the team to work on creating a flyer, letter, creating a schedule for kids to visit the restaurants. Marybeth and Kevin will drive students to ask for donations. Possible locations are: George's, Naples, Olive Garden, Subway, Joey Garlic, People's Choice, Cure, Apricots, Cugino's, Piccolo Arancio.

Team has lists of necessary items to make the dinner a success.

COACHES' REPORT (Tim Barron & Michele Hall):

56 students went through safety training in one weekend! 10+ more students still to go through training in November. Approximate 65-70 members on the team this year.

The team is using a mentoring program this year to pair new members with veteran members as "buddies" to help with member retention.

At the recent Maker faire at Tunxis Community College about half of volunteers were new members – impressive!

All committee head positions have been filled with the exception of two committees.

The team is registered for the Hartford District Competition in March.

Michele will attempt to sign up for Waterbury competition tomorrow.

The high school team has a new Assistant Coach Tiffany Scharpf, FHS science teacher, a new mentor from Otis named Gregory Scharr, and a new mentor who recently moved to CT from out of state where she was involved in another team.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda summarized some upcoming events as fun ways to get involved with the team:

Bay State Brawl, Westborough MA – October 29. This will be a repeat of last year's game which will be a good chance for new members and their families to see what competition is all about.

Pasta Dinner – November 4 at FHS, fun family event! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Maker Faire, Canton November 5 – need parent and student participation.

Lake Garda Dream FIRST – November 18 – need parent and student participation.

NEXT MEETING:

Next booster club meeting is November 9, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Farmington Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm (Scalzo, R and Hall, M)