

**Meeting Minutes - Farmington Friends of Robotics  
November 9, 2016 - Farmington Public Library, 7:00PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Barron, Fred Choi, Jean DaSilva, Christine McCluskey, Lisa Nollman, Marybeth Petersen, Scott Petersen, Linda Scalzo, Tom Schneider.

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Linda Scalzo.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Comment from Jean Dasilva regarding the background check required by BOE that was discussed at the previous meeting. Jean called the company that does background checks and the BOE offices and was assured that the background check does not look into the applicant's financial or employment information, only a criminal and sex offender list check is done. Jean said that she was told that an applicant can omit his social security number from the application if they prefer.

Linda passed on a request from the Board of Education to have background check paperwork brought to town hall or mailed to them, not sent via email.

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unopposed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Linda Scalzo):**

Linda and Lisa met with a representative from Farmington Future that is forming a separate entity to support the FHS Building Committee. The new entity's goal is to help support the referendum that will be necessary to fund the new high school facility. The next meeting is November 17 at 7pm at FHS library, all are welcome.

Tim Barron & Michele Hall had an in-depth meeting with the architects charged with the redesign of FHS and were asked about the team's specific requirements for the new building. Tim and Michele asked for one classroom size, classroom dedicated to the team with a container size space of storage and access to meeting rooms. They asked for placement near a professional machine shop (CNC machine, 3-D printer, etc.), computer labs, and presentation space to display and highlight team accomplishments. The architects said they have plans for an "Innovation Hallway" to show off accomplishments of school-wide teams.

Tim announced that the team would NOT meet at the Annex on Wednesdays this build season and will, instead, pilot "Walsh Wednesdays" at FHS. This is being done to help the team transition to eventually using school-based resources when we have a permanent space in the new building. Linda mentioned that the building committee is doing a good job understanding all the needs of the various groups and stakeholders.

Recent events:

- Pasta Dinner - The pasta dinner was well attended. We had many new parents get involved.

- Maker Faire - This event was also supported by new parents and was a success.
- Raffle sale kick off was done on election day at FHS. It was a successful day of sales, many new parents volunteered.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT (Christine McCluskey):**

Opening balance as of 10/1/16 was \$2,325.93, income from memberships was \$60.00, Expenses (Square fees) were .88c for an ending balance on October 31, 2016 of \$2,385.05.

- The pasta dinner raised \$646.00 but we still have to pay for Chartwells. Tim said he and Michele will pay Chartwells fee this year.
- During pasta dinner we sold \$210 in raffle tickets.
- On election day we sold at least \$1,100 in tickets.
- Donations of \$181.94 were raised at the election.
- FOR Shirt sales \$80.00

The officers, Tim, and Michele will be meeting soon to discuss how build season expenses will be handled.

#### **CURRENT BUSINESS:**

##### **MEMBERSHIP (Marybeth Petersen and Lisa Nollman):**

- We are encouraging everyone that comes to FOR meetings and team events to become a member of FOR.
- FOR will have a presence at the Jr. FLL meeting December 1 at FHS to encourage membership.
- Tim offered to include a membership appeal in the team's communication to parents.
- Lisa offered to reach out to the FLL (2 independent and 2 from IAR) to recruit members. We need to think about how we can, in turn, help to support those teams.

##### **COMMITTEE UPDATES (Linda Scalzo):**

##### **RAFFLE (Christine McCluskey and Linda Scalzo):**

Linda reported that all tickets have been printed. As of last night we sold 13 complete books, 59 books are checked out, 88 books still need to be checked out to sell. Good start! We are hoping to keep the momentum going.

Raffle selling events: Jean approached Olee's and Naples and they both agreed to host us. Dates will be chosen soon and a student and chaperone sign up list will be emailed using Sign Up Genius shortly.

Melissa Couette is contacting George's Restaurant to receive permission. Details will be sent soon. Gin spoke with Stop & Shop but they have no available dates. Shop Rite in Bristol would not approve us to sell at their Bristol location. Kevin is waiting for approval from WalMart. Jean

has a list of locations from last year that she will follow up with. Lisa contacted Truffles, Panera in Westfarms Mall area, Dunkin' in Unionville, and is still waiting for approval. Tim suggested that we look into a Black Friday location - the Toys 'R Us plaza near the mall was discussed. Jean and Lisa will look into those locations. Linda will set up a selling location at Naples for Friday night and Olee's on Saturday.

**COACHES' REPORT (Tim Barron & Michele Hall):** Upcoming events:

11/11: Otis Lunch & Learn (arrive at Otis at 11:00am, leave Otis at 1:00pm.) Students to talk with professionals about the Aerial Assist from 2 years ago and have the professionals try their hand at the challenge before our students show our robot. Hoping to recruit mentors. 7 students signed up need parents to drive.

11/18: Lake Garda Dream FIRST event - need parents to drive, currently recruiting students.

11/19: Safety Test (last chance to join the team) from 12:00 - 4:00pm. FOR should have a presence.

12/1: Jr. FLL meeting at FHS - Linda and Marybeth will attend to represent FOR and sell raffle tickets.

12/4 Shelton High School FLL Championship - no support needed from FOR.

12/5 Hour of Code.

12/13: Raffle Drawing 7:30 at the Annex - team wants it to be an open house for potential mentors to visit.

12/17: Glastonbury Jr. FLL event - need a UHaul and driver.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Lisa Nollman - Jr. FLL needs to do fundraising to buy new kits due to new requirements from FIRST. EXCL will be buying T shirts. Lisa will approach Stanley for money to help buy the kits but needs to apply as a 501(c)3. Can Lisa use FOR's credentials to apply? Linda said yes, that's why we are here!

Linda said at yesterday's raffle selling at polls she gave out Tim's business card to a retired GE engineer interested in mentoring. She talked to parents of a student on the original team. Linda also made contact with a man that does stickers, signs, labels, etc. who would be willing to donate items or do printing at a reduced cost. Another contact was made with a man interested in helping out with auto parts the team might need. Finally, a woman interested in girls in

technology stopped at the booth. It was a successful outreach event in addition to the raffle ticket sales!

**NEXT MEETING:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm