

Meeting Minutes - Farmington Friends of Robotics January 11, 2017 - Farmington Public Library, 7:00PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Barron, Alison Barto, Kevin Krusz, Marybeth Petersen, Scott Petersen, Linda Scalzo, Richard Scalzo, Tom Schneider

Meeting called to order at 7:06PM by Linda Scalzo.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting. Richard made a motion, Scott seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Linda Scalzo): Linda mentioned that the raffle was a success with ticket sales in excess of \$9,000. The Raffle Committee is finishing the final filing of paperwork with the State of CT.

The Glastonbury FLL event did not happen due to weather.

Our high school team had kick-off last weekend and is now in full-swing of build season with meetings Mondays through Saturdays. The team will be looking for parent-volunteers to bring food for the meetings. Look for at Sign Up Genius invitation in your email, save receipts to be reimbursed. Tim reiterated that the expectation is not to have the meals donated and the coaches and the team appreciate the help providing meals during this busy season.

The Suffield Shakedown event will be held on February 18 which is a good opportunity for the team to test their robot. Four team trips are planned for the season (2 in state: Waterbury and Hartford and 2 out of state: New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Details on those trips were presented at last night's parent meeting. Any parent that was unable to attend needs to reach out to the coaches as soon as possible.

One of our team mentors, Charlie Bald, obtained a \$3,000 grant from his employer, Parker Hannifin Fluid Control Division. This will allow the team to build a second robot to use to practice after our "official" robot is wrapped up at the conclusion of build season.

Linda and Rich updated the group on the Farmington High School Building Project and how it would affect the team in the future. Everyone in the community is invited to attend meetings or follow the progress of the project online at: <http://www.fhsbuildingproject.org/welcome>.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Christine McCluskey, presented by Linda Scalzo in Christine's absence):

Opening balance as of 12/1/16 \$5,461.30.

Income was \$9,440.74 (\$290 in membership sign-ups with the remaining \$9,150.74 from raffle ticket sales and donations).

Expenses were \$1,786.48 (\$1.75 Square fees from raffle ticket purchases and \$1,784.73 in raffle expenses).

Ending balance: \$13,115.56

CURRENT BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (Marybeth Petersen and Lisa Nollman):

- Marybeth sent out an "Update" on the organization's and team's activities to the membership list. Thanks to Richard Scalzo for formatting the information.
- We had 2 new members and one new corporate sponsor, TRUMPF, Inc.

NEW BUSINESS:

FLL JR. EXPO SUPPORT (Lisa Nollman and Alison Barto): Lisa and Alison will be working on the FLL Jr. Expo scheduled for Sunday, January 29 at Farmington High School. This year's event will be smaller than last year as the teams from Glastonbury will not be attending. Lisa expects 28 FLL Jr. teams and 12 FLL teams to participate.

Parent help is needed in the areas of set-up, check-in, and clean-up. The team will provide student volunteers to help throughout the event. Kevin, who has worked check-in for several years, suggests that students be available to help teams load-in, Tim said he will add that to the list of jobs students sign up for. Linda will coordinate with Lisa to create a Sign Up Genius to coordinate volunteers.

Alison is volunteering her experience in the food and beverage industry to help coordinate food for sale as a fundraiser for the team. Alison's daughter's Girl Scout troop will help with food prep and sales and will share in the profits. The needs we will want to meet are breakfast, lunch, and light snacks. This would require parent donations and participation as volunteers. Linda will coordinate a Sign Up Genius to coordinate volunteers and food items.

Lisa suggested listing the local restaurants that have been supportive of the team in the past as possible locations for attendees to have dinner as the event ends at dinnertime. Discussion around listing our pasta dinner sponsors in the flyer and possibly contacting the restaurants to see if they would offer a discount to people who come in on the 29th and have their flyer with them. If time allows, Alison would like to do this but the sponsors would be listed either way.

COACHES' REPORT (Tim Barron): Tim was looking for suggestions to have a visit from an animal-themed group to tie-in with the animal theme of the game. Several suggestions were mentioned. Tim will pursue.

Alok Murthy, FHS Team Member, is working on an outreach program to help a middle school in India start a Robotics team. Alok is asking for financial assistance to help cover materials costs and shipping charges. Tim said he would see what Alok has in mind and, if he needs assistance from FOR, the students would need to write-up a proposal for consideration.

OTHER:

Tom Schneider is forming an exploratory fundraising committee and would like volunteer help. He noted that a coach's presence on the committee seems to be necessary. Tim said he would help. Mark Hofman and David McCluskey have expressed an interest in helping with fundraising in the past - Tom will contact them. Lisa Nollman said she would help as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Farmington FLL Jr. Expo - January 29 at FHS
- Waterbury Qualifier - March 4 & 5
- Greater Boston Qualifier Trip - March 17-19
- District Championship UNH Trip - April 5-9

NEXT MEETING:

Next booster club meeting is February 8 (second Wednesday of the month) at 7:00pm at the Farmington Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM.