

Friends of Thorp Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2012

Central Kitchen and Tap

Attendees:

Board members: Leslie Grimm, Mike Shelton, Lisa Weisenberger, Maria Bratt, Bindu Alexander, Katie Madden, Tammy Woods, Joe Basilone, Laura Martinelli, Colleen O'Toole, Elaine Brennan

Others in attendance: Janelle Reilly, Elise Duffy, Mary Nespoux, Jaymie Romack, Janine Nelson

Minutes Prepared By: Leslie Grimm

- I. The meeting began with the Treasurer's report. Joe Basilone reported all outstanding checks have been cleared giving us an ending balance of \$2326.24. We need to write one check for \$250 to Mrs. McDaniels for choir tee shirts last year. We discussed the monthly fees for the use of PayPal and finding other cheaper possibilities. Joe and Anu are looking into those. We need to have something in place for our upcoming tree sale.
- II. We discussed the feasibility of getting a playground along with some of the funding options
 - A. Friends of Thorp will continue its active campaign for financial assistance to enhance the playspace to include expanded play surfaces, greenery, and a possible community garden. Lisa showed us a proposed design of the play space as a starting model.
 - B. Urban Habitat has already measured our East lot and met with involved parents. Urban Habitat will meet with our entire Thorp community in January to solicit community input and to brainstorm our final plan.
 - C. Other financial initiatives
 - i. The Clorox Grant has been delayed until Monday, November 12 due to hurricane Sandy. If we were to win this grant, we would receive \$50,000 toward a playground. If we did not win this, we could be one of three schools receiving a need-based grant of \$25,000 toward a playground.
 - ii. Maria has been working on a mission statement for continued grant initiatives.
- III. Lisa and Bindu presented a proposed grant calendar which will be posted as a Google document to our board. It includes grants, logistics and dates of submission. This document will be key to our future grant writing.
- IV. Report Card Pickup, Tuesday, November 13
 - A. Friends of Thorp will have a table during report card pickup from 11:30 AM until 6:45 PM.
 - i. We will have a 50-50 raffle, a coat drive, Christmas tree presales, and the e-mail sign up
 - ii. Leslie will make a Google document for volunteer sign-up and items to bring to the event
- V. Family Movie Day (Joe and Laura)
 - A. This event has been postponed until January due to logistical concerns at the patio theater.

- VI. Christmas Tree Sale in partnership with the PTA (presented by Katie and Tammy)
 - A. The sale will take place on Saturday, December 8 from 10 AM – 2 PM on the East lot of school
 - B. In addition to selling Christmas trees and garland, will serve hot chocolate/cookies, have special music and caroling from our chorus, and a surprise visitor.
 - C. Tammy will check on 8th grade helpers. They may sell candy bars or hold a bake sale.
 - D. Bindu showed us banners created for this event. They look terrific.
 - E. Volunteer information and sign-up will be posted as a Google document by Katie
 - F. Volunteers have begun marketing via local Facebook pages, newspapers and e-mail groups. We have created posters and flyers to distribute within the neighborhood. Katie made a Google document for volunteers to sign-up to help with marketing.
 - G. Logistical concerns: Who will be Santa? Cost of outfit? Power source? Bathrooms? Warming station? Legal concerns of having a bake sale at CPS (Katie will check with Mr. Toledo)? Sound system (Joe)? Timing of choir singing?

- VII. Appeal letter
 - A. The Appeal Letter has been translated into Spanish and Polish and will be copied and distributed via backpacks next week.

- I. Other Business:
 - A. Thorpapaloosa – Colleen and Anu have been working on our event slated for April 21, 2013. We have opted out of using Martyrs’ and are looking at the Irish-American Heritage Center. Details were discussed and are yet to be finalized. Things look quite good.
 - B. We discussed having a low-key silent auction as part of this event
 - C. We discussed creating a benevolence fund for the many families in need at Thorp. The topic has been delayed until further discussion.
 - D. The meeting was adjourned