

Sunday, April 27, 2008 4:30 – 6:30 PM Kristin (Reese) Root's House 426 Pickering Drive Pickerington, OH 43147

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Rob Alexander, Kyle Heiberger, Kristin (Reese) Root, and Joy Ella (Colucci) Taylor. Kristin's dog and baby joined us for a while too, but they contributed very little to the conversation.

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING

Discussion about dates and times:

The group decided that the summer of 2009 would be the ideal time to hold the reunion because of the nicer weather and the break from school (for classmates with school-aged children). It was agreed that August is usually really hot, so June and July would be preferable, although we'd want to avoid Independence Day (July 4th) and ComFest (last full weekend in June). The group decided that Father's day weekend may be a smart choice since out-of-town classmates may be more likely to "come back home" that weekend. Thus, the tentatively chosen dates are June 19-20, 2009. No activities would take place on Sunday the 21st as that would be Father's Day.

There was some discussion as to whether this should be a one-night event or a weekend that included several events. In the end, the group agreed that there should be a few different events spread over Friday and Saturday.

Times were not discussed.

Discussion about events:

The group thought there should be 3 distinct events for the reunion weekend including:

- 1.) Friday night mixer/barhop
- 2.) Saturday afternoon family picnic/potluck
- 3.) Saturday evening banquet

It was also thought that all three events should be kept rather informal and as inexpensive as possible. This would ensure that we are not turning anyone away who might want to come and that we are allowing as much time as possible to simply catch up and talk with people.

Mixer/barhop (Friday evening):

The idea was that classmates could gather at a pre-determined place and time to drink, reminisce, and be merry. This would be a no-cost event since those who want to participate would be expected to pay for all their own drinks, food, cover charges, etc. The Short North (Columbus) was suggested as a good starting point and, as the evening progresses, groups of friends could split off and go wherever they want to go. Obviously, this would be an adult-only event.

Family picnic/potluck (Saturday afternoon):

Since many classmates are now married and/or have kids, the group thought it would be nice to have an event where we could show them off to each other. Thus the idea of a family picnic was born. This would be a very informal affair (read low-cost) that would offer lots of food, lots of time to catch up with each other, and lots of activities for the kids. The group agreed that a park setting in the local area would work the best for this event. Possible locations that were discussed included:

- Jackson Lake Swimming Pool, Game room, Sand Volleyball, Horseshoes, Basketball Hoops, Three Acre Lake and a Pond for Fishing (catch and release only), and Snack Bar. A large shelter would be \$100 to rent for the day, plus people would have to pay \$6.00 per person to get into the park. We think alcohol would be permitted on site.
- Slate Run Park Picnic tables, grills, playfields, playground equipment, horseshoe pit and horseshoes, drinking fountain, restrooms and a 14-acre lake with two children's fishing docks and lakeside boardwalk. The shelter can seat a maximum of 200 people and has 4 small grills and electrical outlets. The shelter is non-reservable, so we'd have to get there early to stake our claim on it, however, that also means it would be free.
- Chestnut Ridge Park Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, vault restrooms, horseshoe pits and drinking fountains. 2.65 acre lake with two fishing docks, where children 15 years and under may fish. Shelter only seats 64 people and is also free, but non-reservable.
- Rising Park Large shelter with a playground, tennis courts, and walking trails nearby. Cannot be reserved until January 2, 2009. This would be free as long as a Lancaster resident reserves it, but like the other parks, no alcohol would be permitted.
- The Kosch's barn Lonnie Kosch's childhood home has a large barn with an open floor plan that could potentially be suitable as a location for the picnic. Would need to ask him and his Dad if this would even be possible.

Jackson Lake and the Kosch's barn offer an advantage in that we would be permitted to have alcohol on the premises. All except Jackson's Lake would be free to use.

To cut down on costs, the group thought it would be a good idea to organize this as a potluck lunch, although we didn't get into the particulars on how to pull this off.

Some concern was raised that people would choose to come to the picnic since it was low-cost and avoid going to the more expensive banquet. In the end, the group agreed that the best thing we can do is to make the evening banquet as attractive as possible so that people were eager to come to it.

Banquet (Saturday evening)

Before planning what to do for a main reunion event, we first discussed how much we felt ticket prices should be. After some discussion, the group agreed that we should aim for a ticket price between \$25 and \$40 per person, with a possible discount for guests/spouses. We also discussed how many classmates we might expect to come to this event, and the group thought 50% attendance could be possible. When you do all the math, you could expect to receive about \$4,000 to work with, however, not all of this could go toward the site and the food since there with be other costs (printing, postage, etc.).

With all this in mind, the group thought the site didn't need to be fancy and that we should try hard to find a location that wouldn't charge a rental fee to our class. If that couldn't be done, we'd begin looking for a low-cost venue.

Some sites that came up in conversation include:

- Pine Hill Golf Course Kristin said she thinks they wouldn't charge a rental fee and that their food is fairly decent.
- Hickory Lakes Can accommodate up to 150 people banquet style. \$500 rental fee, plus catering costs, plus 15% of food cost for catering usage fee.

The group agreed to hold off site and caterer discussions until Brooke Dowler could get involved since she works in this industry and may have ideas/contacts.

Childcare was an issue that came up and it was felt that it would be great if we could find a way to provide childcare to people who couldn't make arrangements.

The group decided that it was not a good idea to hire a DJ or band to play music during the reunion events because people would be there to talk, not dance. Kyle Heiberger has offered to set up non-intrusive background music using a PA system and his iPod.

Budget and finance discussion:

The group agreed that we need to set up a bank account for the reunion so that reunion money is not comingled with anyone's personal finances. This will decrease our liability and ensure that we always have a paper trail when questions arise.

Kristin Root offered to take the lead in setting up a checking account, and Joy Ella Taylor and Kyle Heiberger agreed to act as signers on the account as well. Once this is done, Rob Alexander will set up a PayPal account online so that we can start to accept credit card payments on the reunion website. Rob Alexander also agreed to keep track of payments received and made in a spreadsheet, but wouldn't necessarily be the one writing checks as he would not be a signer on the account.

Discussion about locating missing classmates:

The group agreed that we have done a good job so far of finding classmates and it's been surprising how many people plan to attend the reunion. Going forward, we all need to continue making personal contacts and encouraging people to sign up on the website. Rob Alexander said he heard that having "search parties" is really effective. This is where a small group of people would get together and do nothing but research the internet and make calls to family, friends, etc. trying to find people who haven't been located yet. Of course, food would be involved somehow. He thought they could have a Dayton Search party since three committee members live in Dayton, as well as a Columbus search party.

The group believes that it's possible to locate almost 100% of our classmates since we are getting an early jump on this.

Someone needs to contact the high school office to get the most recent list of addresses for the class of 1999. This could give us a starting point for people who are hard to locate.

Other topics:

The group briefly discussed possible fund raisers that would help us if we need some initial cash to plan the reunion, but there were no agreements, decisions, or conclusions made.

The group briefly discussed whether to send invitations by e-mail or USPS, but no agreements, decisions, or conclusions were made.

The group discussed whether to expand the number of people on this planning committee and whether to have subcommittees, but the general feeling was that we should keep it small and not break up into subcommittees.

We ended the meeting with a 30-minute game of "Whatever happened to ..."

THE END