From: Siegrist [mailto:bksiegrist@frontier.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 6:05 AM

To: Lissa Brown

Subject: Camp Myeerah



I just found out that Camp Myeerah may be "rested" or even sold this fall. While I am very unhappy about the decision, I do understand. I have very fond memories of staying at Camp Myeerah as a girl – swimming in the lake, hiking to activities, being a hopper in the dining hall, singing camp songs, etc. As a leader I have taken my troop to the Earth Day events and we have done an overnighter in the troop house. I believe the camp is extremely underused largely due to a lack of programs offered and no camp staff. For my troop, Camp Libbey is the same distance and offers so much more. It's sad to say, but the amount of money needed to update, staff, and maintain Camp Myeerah definitely outweighs the current use.

Beth Siegrist Leader, Troop 20587 Celina

---- Original Message -----

From: litlady2294@aol.com

To: <u>jvbaughman@gmail.com</u>; <u>bksiegrist@frontier.com</u>

Cc: asinclair@bright.net; danrliggett@roadrunner.com; connie_troop20503@yahoo.com;

schindler85@frontier.com; cmkabhuber@bright.net; gbreese@woh.rr.com; strap4kids@roadrunner.com;

sjtewks4@yahoo.com

Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2012 9:12 AM Subject: Re: Camp Myeerah - important!

In my opinion the entire GS program (our region) under the current administration is not doing well at all, it's always take take take, pay for this and charge for that, push to get more to join...why? when council does very little if anything for our actual troops, don't get me wrong they do plan some events if you want to arrange transportation to Lima and 6.00 admission to the event...hello do something for the girls!! It's the girls that keep you going! I know it costs me more money than I can afford just to keep my troop going BUT...I make it fun and cheap as possible (still have to purchase badges from council for rewards of their time and work, still have to pay dues, still have to buy expensive uniforms, still have to push to sell cookies and fall product, still have to pay for transportation, still donate lots of time and energy to the program and the benefits are?????

----Original Message----

From: Jack Baughman < jvbaughman@gmail.com>

To: Siegrist < bksiegrist@frontier.com>

Cc: Amber Sinclair asinclair@bright.net; Amie Liggett dannliggett@roadrunner.com; Connie Davis 20503connie_troop20503@yahoo.com; Linda Schindler 20436 schindler85@frontier.com; Michele Huber cmkabhuber@bright.net; Michelle Breese gbreese@woh.rr.com; Robin Gilstrap 20678 strap4kids@roadrunner.com; Sheila Teksbuy sjtewks4@yahoo.com; Tammy Trenshaw 20437 litlady2294@aol.com>

Sent: Wed, Jul 11, 2012 7:11 pm

Subject: Re: Camp Myeerah - important!

Hello Ladies,

I want to know why we are just know finding out about this when the camp study was done in 2011. The reason Camp Myeerah doesn't get a lot of G.S. use is because council has done nothing with it for the past several years. No major improvements, no camp director to run programs for Myeerah. My daughter loved the daddy daughter weekend. They ran it for 2 years and then stopped doing it. (She attended the first year but was not able to the second year because of other plans but was planning on attending the following year until they stopped doing it!)

Before long Appleseed Ridge Region will not exist and all our G.S. heritage will be gone. Camp Myeerah has been around for over 50 years! Yet, I am willing to bet that is has received the least amount of attention since the merger. (Camp Libby seems to get it all!)

Just need to air my thoughts and irritations! Thanks for listening!

Valerie

On Wed, Jul 11, 2012 at 5:41 PM, Siegrist < bksiegrist@frontier.com> wrote:

Just found out Camp Myeerah may be sold this fall! Info on GSWO website. Council is requesting comments from leaders and girls.

Beth

----Original Message-----

From: Steve and Andra Dillon [mailto:dillonsa@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:04 PM

To: Maggie Slovik

Subject: Camp Myeerah input

Hi. I saw on the web site that Camp Myeerah may be sold and that we can send our thoughts and comments. Because I use an iPad I can't open all of the documents. I'm hoping that you can forward my feedback to the right people.

My Brownie troop stayed at Camp Myeerah this year in the troop house. We really, really enjoyed everything about the camp and our visit. We found it to be a cabin that was very clean and well kept. It also provided modern bathrooms that my girls appreciated. It allowed them to be outside at camp but in an environment that matched their lifestyle. We also have a girl with asthma so having a lodge with electricity in case she needed a breathing treatment was essential. Even the bunks were sturdy, clean and new. This is the type of place that I really like for our troop.

The other things we really liked where the activities located near the camp. Marmon Valley farms did a horse care workshop with the girls and then took them on a fantastic horseback riding trip. Horseback riding was something that the girls voted to use their cookie money on and it was gratifying to see their pride in their accomplishment. Piatt Caslte did a fantastic workshop with the girls about math and theater. It was a fantastic way to encourage math and engineering with the girls. The chocolate company....I don't remember the name....was so yummy and the girls picked out a treat to eat. We also had a hike lead by a guide from the local Audubon Society in the wetlands. This fit very well with the wow Journey we did. In the future I was considering a ski trip too and using the troop house as a winter camping site and this camp even offers caving nearby. This location offers unique activities that feel enhance the girl scout experience.

I understand the need to be fiscally responsible but I will be sad to see this camp sold if that is what the committee decides. I just wanted to share with you our experience and thoughts on Camp Myeerah.

Best of luck with the review, analysis, and decision.

Sincerely,

Andra Dillon Troop 30937 Beavercreek Oh **From:** Amber Sinclair [mailto:asinclair@bright.net]

Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 9:38 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen Subject: Cap Myeerah

I have recently been made aware of the possibility of the sale of Camp Myeerah. I am an assistant leader for Troop 20587. I understand that financial needs might necessitate the sale of this property, however, I would like to voice my concerns. I have been in Girl Scouting with my daughter since she was a Daisy and she is currently a new Cadette. We have been to Camp Myeerah of Me and My Guy, Me and My Gal and a troop activity for Earth Day and sleep over in the lodge. We love what Myeerah has to offer. The wetlands are something that the girls cannot find just anywhere. There are memories that we have taken away from the times we spent at the activities My daughter still talks about the time that she stayed in the covered wagons and they had to move three times due to the rainy weather. These memories are only possible because there were programs there for her to attend. If the council does not provide programs, there is little opportunity to see all that Myeerah has to offer. I am saddened that our council has not made the effort to provide programming to keep girls and troops interested in attending Camp Myeerah. My philosophy is from the movie *Field of Dreams*, "if you build it, they will come". That means, provide the programming and the usage of the camp will go up.

Sincerely, Amber Sinclair, Assistant Leader Troop 20587, Celina, OH

From: ashley baughman < ashleybaughman1@gmail.com>

Date: July 28, 2012 8:29:57 PM EDT

To: roniluckenbill@girlscoutsofwesternohio.org

Subject: Camp Myeerah

July 28, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I have become aware of the fact that you are thinking of selling Camp Myeerah and I sincerely ask you to rethink this decision. As a young Girl Scout, my troop and I have had many campouts there and made many memories there as well. I couldn't bear the thought that all of the future memories that not only I, but many other girls could make and cherish would never happen. It may not be as modern as some of the other camps, but it is because of this feature that makes the camp fun and exciting.

If the reason that this is happening is because the camp is not being used as much as it was before, I know there are many girls, including myself, that would love to help put on programs and get the camp running again. Also, we would be glad to do any repairs or clean up duties to the camp if needed. We could even suggest some ideas of our own if you wanted. We would be willing to do most anything to help out and keep it running. So, I am not just asking, but begging you not to sell and let such a great camp be lost to future generations of Girl Scouts who may otherwise never get a chance to e to future generations of Girl Scouts who may otherwise never get a chance to experience the great outdoors.

The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."

-- Juliette Gordon Low

Ashley Baughman Girl Scout Senior Troop 20545 From: Philip Compton [mailto:plcomp64@watchtv.net]

Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 12:23 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen Cc: Michele Branham Subject: Camp Myeerah

To Whom It May Concern:

Living in Hardin County, the next county over from Camp Myeerah, Camp Myeerah has a long history with adult and girls who have enjoyed weekend camping trips, SU camps, and day trips exploring the woods and fields and creek and all the flora and fauna available.

I understand it's a big camp, expensive to maintain, providing a more primitive experience which seems to be less appreciated within current camping planning. However, I have heard enough of the leaders in the area talking about how difficult it is to secure a site at Myeerah when they've wanted to camp there to think past unavailablity has contributed greatly to the reduced Girl Scout use. The usage chart belies what leaders have experienced. I would be interested in what are considered "available dates" as you made your calculations. If you used weekdays during the school year for GS camping possibilities, you certainly would have skewed results. It would be interesting to calculate year-round weekends (winter campouts combined with midnight skiing is a favorite!) and summer to see when Girl Scouts and others are using the site.

If you sell Camp Myeerah, you will be forfeiting a jewel of nature left undeveloped, ready and open for exploration and discovery. I would hope that still is a goal of the Girl Scout experience.

Sincerely, LaDonna Compton, Life-time Member Former Deputy Director of the former Appleseed Ridge Council

From: Anna Mitchell [mailto:annamitchell1998@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 1:59 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen

Subject: Camp Myeerah Offer

I am unable to attend the town hall meeting tomorrow night, but wanted to offer any possible input I can give for this issue. My troop has attended Camp Myeerah for a variety of troop camping events, Earth Day Event, and council sponsored overnights/TAC events.

As a troop, we have enjoyed using Camp Myeerah, but have also noticed the many repairs that are needed as well as the difficulty in keeping trails and camp sites maintained. While we are disappointed that we may lose the camp, we understand the financial aspect of maintaining the camp in comparison to amount it is used.

I have heard many leaders say that they won't use Camp Myeerah because of the facilities and program opportunities that they can get at Camp Libbey when comparing the cost of site rental between the two camps. While attending TAC June 2012, I heard many leaders comparing the TAC experience at Libbey to the TAC experience at Myeerah. The biggest complaints had to do with the facilities as well as lack of staff on site.

Usage is not going to improve under the current conditions of the camp. Unfortunately, GSWO will either have to make a gamble to invest in major improvements in hopes that troops will begin using the camp again, or cut their losses and sell.

If you have any specific questions you would like me to answer, please let me know. I would be happy to offer any input that will help in making the best decision for the girls and the council.

Thank you, Anna Mitchell, Leader, Troop 20229 Findlay, OH ----Original Message----

From: Troop 20556 [mailto:troop20556@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 4:55 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen Subject: Myeerah

I appologize that this email is a day late for the "Town Hall Meeting". I have been away on vacation and just received the notification email. Hopefully this note will find its way to someone that would like to hear another opinion.

First of all, it bothers me that someone would decide to hold a meeting to discuss the fate of Camp Myeerah somewhere other than the location in question. Council has not used Myeerah for Summer Camp and other opportunities much in the last few years. I do not have information on the usage of Myeerah by troops from councils other than Western Ohio. However, I believe that Myeerah is probably used more by local troops. Therefore, the possibility of closing Camp Myeerah would most likely affect local girls/adults that would not have the opportunity to travel to Woodhaven to discuss their concerns. This meeting would have been more appropriate at the camp whose fate is being discussed.

I speak for myself and others in our area when I say that we feel Myeerah has been neglected for quite some time. It does not appear that Council has put much time, effort or money into maintaining Myeerah. The lodge and troop house are in need of a major top to bottom scrubbing. The lodge had a water leak and subsequent damage. Someone decided it best to remove the cabinetry from the kitchen in the lodge and replace it with work surfaces and shelving that has nothing to enclose the pots, pans, mixing bowls etc... At our service unit event in January, we were ashamed to find cookware covered in dirt, dust, spider webs, and mouse feces. The sleep mats had been moved to the pantry/storage closet in the kitchen. I'm not sure how that was beneficial to carry mats through a kitchen.

At a service unit meeting following this event, leaders expressed such concerns to a council representative and offered to put together a group of girls and adults to give Myeerah a face lift. Council never said anymore about it.

The problems with Myeerah are certainly a large reason that other troops have stayed away, contributing to the decreased usage of the camp. These problems at Myeerah did not happen overnight. It is a result of years of neglect; doing only what was absolutely necessary to keep the camp functional. Therefore, no one can expect to fix this overnight. Council and the members in it must be willing to help make a change. Isn't that one of the purposes of Girl Scouts?

Closing Camp Myeerah will most certainly affect the girls in our area. My troop alone has enjoyed using the facilities there and were looking forward to using the tree houses at Myeerah next summer.

Please be sure that all options are considered before putting Camp Myeerah on the chopping block. I would not like to see Girl Scouts of Western Ohio in the media focus like GSNEO.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on this issue. I only hope one voice truly can make a difference.

Thank you, Danielle Jenkins

----Original Message----

From: jsmedley@wcoil.com [mailto:jsmedley@wcoil.com]

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 9:54 AM

To: Cheryl Drinnen

Subject: Myeerah meeting

I attended the meeting the other evening about the purchase offer for Camp Myeerah. Many of the troop leaders present stated that they did not receive the email send out by the board. Some said they found a newspaper article that did not state the time, place or location and they had to call the local office to find that information. Others said they received a call from previous council employees. Given that there was such an error in communication, I feel it would be inappropriate to make any decision at September's meeting. All Troop Leaders deserve the opportunity to have their voices heard. I think you should have another meeting and make sure that all Service

Units and Troop Leaders are reached. Also it would be helpful if information on how to contact council about the potential sale was easier to find on the website.

Currently the only contact information on the website is under the Frequently Asked Questions Link under the very last question. I would suggest putting it under the information that immediately comes up on the GSWO webpage so people don't have to look under the links to find it.

Anne Smedley Leader - Troop 20632

From: Susan Osborn

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 1:05 PM

To: 'msac@bright.net'

Subject: follow-up on Myeerah discussion

Mitch,

Thank you for your input and the time you took from your busy schedule for feedback on Myeerah. I hope that the fair and your family's time with the exchange student went well.

Based on our conversation, I have noted the following points to forward to the board from you.

- 1. Camps represent a long term investment that should not be sold for short-term reasons. For example, it would be short-sighted to sell property because the council needed cash.
- 2. Outdoor experiences are an important part of girls' development. Girls gain skills and values through outdoor experiences that are not easily replicated in other settings. In the last 10 -12 years Girl Scouts seems to have had a pendulum swing toward the "I'm okay You're okay" style of youth development. Camp and other opportunities for skill development gives girls a concrete area of development that they can feel great about. SU and regional outdoor activities are also a great place for leaders to learn from one another increasing their comfort in outdoors and knowledge of GS overall.
- 3. Develop a partnership with an organization that would want to lease a portion of the camp that could also support GS for example an RV campsite that could be used by outside groups, but also by GS, since fewer leaders want to camp in tents.
- 4. If current finances and programming trends don't support the use of the camp, the board should not rush into this sale, but rather consider alternate ways to support the cost of the camp or to preserve its use for Girl Scouts, including:
 - a. Lease it to another organization for 10 years with the option to buy (so the decision will be able to be re-evaluated at that time.)
 - b. Put it up for sale in the general market, emphasizing that preference would be given to an organization that would offer the option for continued use by Girl Scouts.
 - c. Sell (or lease) part of the camp, retaining the areas most used by Girl Scouts.

Does this capture your "4 points"? If not please edit and send back.

Thanks,

Susan Susan Osborn Chief Strategy Officer From: Kristina Copenhaver [mailto:kriscope79@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 11:20 AM

To: Cheryl Drinnen Subject: Camp Myeerah

I was saddened to hear of the possibility of the sale of Camp Myeerah by reading my local paper today. I live in the Logan county area and was very sad many years back when Girl Scouts decided to sell Mac-o-chee which was the best camp in the state to many of us Girl Scouts.

I am a Girl Scout Leader in Champaign County and have been fighting our service unit for years to get them to use Myeerah rather than going all the way to Rolling Hills. They have just started trying the camp in Lima but I really don't think you can compare that to Myeerah, Myeerah far surpasses it.

I understand that the scout offices in Lima and Dayton don't see the benefit of Myeerah but can you please think of all of us scouts in the middle? I know the local boy scouts often use Camp Myeerah as well. I think the biggest drawback I see to Myeerah is not the camp itself, it is the junkyard across the road.

If there is anyway Girl Scouts can keep this camp I believe they should. I would love to help with letting other troops know about it and working on the camp too.

I'm hoping when my Brownie troop starts back up next month that we can continue to plan our spring camp out at Myeerah. I also hope we are able to have our Service units fall leader get away and spring event at Myeerah as we are planning.

Thank you for your time Kristina Copenhaver

From: Paulandrikki@aol.com [mailto:Paulandrikki@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2012 2:43 PM

To: Jessica Hufford

Cc: kristinefsmith@msn.com

Subject: Fwd: Myeerah Property Update

HI Jessica,

This is for the Myeerah committee. It's from Claire Davis, our veteran leader here in Findlay. She sent it to me, but I wanted it to get to you because I knew you would get it there.

THANKS! Rikki

From: joeclaired@aol.com
To: Paulandrikki@aol.com

Sent: 8/11/2012 2:08:13 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: Re: Myeerah Property Update

I am a long time Girl Scout Leader and Trainer in outdoor skills. We used Myeerah when there was only the open sided shelter over a water pump. We did primitive camping, lashed our tables, sinks, and potties and had lots of fun. Grandpa Yore lived down the road and would come and tell the girls about the Indians and pioneers who lived in the area and we made him Ice cream "in a hole" for his birthdday (may have been is 80th or more. WE cleaned up the old cemetary, swam in the lake and had wonderful times. It was a ong trip but certainly no further than Libby and we learned a lot about the Amish on the way. I remember all the wonderful wildflowers and the bittersweet that grew along the fence close to the entrance. WE (they not me) skided in winter, rode horses at a privatae camp near Bellefontain and loved it there. I have not been there for several years but awhile back our troop entertained the ladies from the Findlay Senior Center with an overnight and camping experience there and they had a ball, such a nice intergenerational event

"This was in the lodge, not primitive camping". even I didn't try to go that far!!

I am a great believer in "being prepared" and learning the outdoor skills is a great and fun way to accomplish that. When we lose power nowdays who knows how to start a fire to cook a meal?

Sorry, but I just feel strongly about girls knowing how to live in nature. Claire Davis, Findlay

I started out at age 10 at Camp Butterworth (the Cincinnati camp) which was quite primitive I have been to Macy times, one in Trainer of Outdoor Skills, have been a G.S. for 68 yearas (5 of them as a girl) and am proud of having had my girls in Scouting positions, and now my daughter is helping my great grandaughters troop (Brownie) in Oregon. My younger daughter took her daughter through the whole program too> My husband was a long time Girl Scout too having been on the Board in Hancock County, Tri Ridge, Appleseed Ridge. Drove for four BIG trips with out Troops, we loved every minute of it. YEAH SCOUTS Claire Davis Findlay

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Christi West < Christi West @woh.rr.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 31, 2012 at 3:47 PM

Subject: Re: camp

To: Jackie < lbtkj@yahoo.com>

Cc: jerry brose <jlbrose@columbus.rr.com>

Jackie,

Thanks for your thoughts. I will pass them on. On Mon, Aug 27, 2012 at 12:29 AM, Jackie < lbtkj@yahoo.com> wrote:

I had a wonderful time at Camp Libby with the Green Hatters. It was so much fun. I wish you had been there to enjoy it too. Shirley Green was there. She had a heart attack a month ago while at the fair in Columbus! She was doing well though and had a good time too. I wanted to let you know a few more of my thoughts about selling our camp...

I watched the morning show today about The Hole in the Wall Camp that Paul Newman started in Conn. If the camp has to be sold why not sell it or share it with a group like Paul Newman's that would use the camp as a camp and that maybe we could collaborate with for the Girl Scouts' use.

Camp Libby is a gorgeous camp with newer cabins and trimmed lawns and concrete walkways. Funded by Libbey it has that advantage, but OUR CAMP has great potential and has the kind of camping that girls and others need to be exposed to so that they can learn independence as well as courage, character and the confidence to become independent adults. New badges about financial concerns are great, but we can't abandon our roots which include both cookies and CAMPING. SAVE our camp for the future of girls and boys and anyone else to comes to camp for a day program or camping, or birding or studying black history or the history of the physical area and glacial past or the animals that live in the wetlands or ravines and fields. Please pass this on to the board.

Jackie Paguirigan

From: Jackie [mailto:lbtkj@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 4:27 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen

Subject: Camping and Camp Myeerah

I was at the meeting at Woodhaven and have shared with both Christi West and Jerry Brose. I am a former board

technology. We need to teach basic survival skills as we explore all the worlds of tomorrow. Learning to be at ease with oneself in nature provides solace when stress builds and this can be a stressful world. Watching birds fly and fish swim teaches us our place in the natural realm and how we can fit our selves into the world of Girl Scouting and the bigger world as well. We need those connections as we change and grow so that we have a continuity with the land, not just buldings and concrete. Camping experiences remain in our hearts forever and will always provide a haven to which we can return to refuel our spirits and renew our commitments to be good stewards of the land which provides for us in so many ways. All of the girls and adults of Western Ohio need to think about saving the old places and the ways of life shared there. We need to see the stars plainly at night and watch the sun rise in the morning listening to the frogs and the birds and the quiet of the woods. We save an old camp for the future that will come if we pave the way and make it happen.

From: Thomas Seeley [mailto:tomsueseeley@live.com]

Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2012 7:51 PM

To: Cheryl Drinnen Subject: Camp Myeerah

Dear Girl Scout staff,

I am writing to protest your decision to allow Camp Myeerah to be sold! I was a Girl Scout, a Girl Scout leader and both my girls were in scouts. Camp Myeerah is an amazing property with a great deal of real nature to offer Girl Scouts. It is one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the state of Ohio. In addition, there is a complete wetland there. Camping should be about more than just being out in a tent anywhere. Particularly in this day and age when many children do not have opportunities to really be in nature, Girl Scouts should be the one place where they can still see, touch and even band real wildlife. Most Girl Scout troops will never get to tour Costa Rica. However, for a relatively short ride from Cinncinnati, Dayton, Lima, Toledo or Columbus, girls can experience the birds that they would see in Costa Rica. At a certain time of year, they can even watch the incredible mating dance of the Woodcock. In my opinion, if Camp Myeerah is not being used enough by campers, it is because the true assets of the camp have not been marketed to the leaders.

I understand that both the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society have donated thousands of dollars and also many volunteer hours to rehabilitate large sections of grassland and wetland areas for birds. It appears that you can legally accept such a donation and then immediatley proceed to sell the camp. However, morally I don't see how you can accept such a donation from the local community and then almost immediatley proceed to sell it. Legally, you can give back some of the money or preserve the land for the minimum number of years, but there was much more than money involved! There were volunteer hours completed at the camp and countless hours raising money for this project as both habitat for birds and as an important investment in the future of girls. Girl Scouts have an obligation to the current girls, but also to the future of scouting forever. The public's perception of Girl Scouts still matters.

Another question I have is, if the camp must be sold, why wouldn't you open the bidding up to multiple buyers? Why not give other groups, such as perhaps Audubon groups, time to see if they might raise the money for the camp? Why is the buyer and the buyer's purpose for the property not being disclosed? Where is the transparency? Also, if the camp is under-utilized why not rent it out more frequently to other groups who support the idea of bringing adults and children to a natural place? Maybe this would help some girls decide they are interested in scouts and help parents remember why scouting is important to their child's development. At this time of declining enrollment in Girl Scouts, it may be easiest to just balance out the books and let this camp go. However, as we all know from scouts, what is easy is often not best. Camp Myeerah is unique among camps and should never have been listed as a Tier 3 camp! Instead of selling off Camp Myeerah, how about we get down to the work of educating the leaders and future Girl Scouts about the uniqueness of this amazing camp.

Sincerely,

Susan Seeley, Ph.D.