

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S., Burien, WA)
Monday, Dec 6, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice President – Michael Warbington

Members at Large – Bridget Lombardo, Phil Cole, Meg Coburn, Libbie Grant

Others in attendance:

Dan Lombardo, Sharon Zolnowsky, Kenneth Eads, Joel Medina, Josh Oberg, Eileen Cole

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 7:09 p.m.

Chuck made a motion that henceforth we accept a consent agenda re: the previous meeting's minutes. Bridget seconds.

Libbie and Meg need to be added to the email server.

Mike was named official voter for Camp Quest national elections. The Board met as a group (via online meeting) to discuss the candidates and reach a consensus on CQNW's vote.

A camper's mom approached Dan and asked him whether CQNW had a consensus about whether this camper would be ready for the LT program. Bridget, Kenneth, and Chuck all agree that it could be a good experience for them and we should let them try out the LT program.

Phil has a rough draft for the Grant Committee guidelines and will be meeting with the rest of the Grant Committee (Libbie, Meg) next week to review. Mike would like to have some involvement with Grant Committee planning, since functions of this committee intersect with his Staffing Committee functions. Phil will also consider adding a parent representative to Grant Committee to either help with guideline development or reviewing applications.

Registration starts Jan 2nd at 12:01 a.m. Chuck will be on hand to answer emails as they come in. Kathy will be largely in charge of registration functions, will tap other members as needed for support.

Kathy could not attend this meeting, so emailed in the following questions:

Regarding a mixed gender cabin: We can include a question on the application to help us gauge whether we need to include a mixed-gender cabin at the 2017 session(s). Mike presented a

draft question to include on the application form. ***We will need to include a “Would you be willing to staff a mixed-gender cabin?” question on our staff application.***

Regarding vaccinations: The Board is in agreement that the ACA standard regarding vaccines is acceptable and applicable to CQNW. The Board agrees that the vaccination declaration on the application should include two “check box” options: (“My child has not been vaccinated,” and “My child has been vaccinated OR my child is exempted from vaccinations for medical reasons.”)

Regarding Sexual Health Education programming: Due to difficulties with nailing down Planned Parenthood or other organizations and coordinating schedules, we may develop our own programming rather than bringing in outside programming. We do not yet know whether we’ll provide this programming for LTs only, for some age groups, or for all age groups. We will give parents the option to opt their camper out of this programming (although campers above the legally stipulated age may opt themselves into this programming per state law, if in fact it is supported by state law.)

Regarding parent volunteers: Put a question on the camp enrollment form asking parents whether they’d like to volunteer? The Board agrees that this is a good idea.

Regarding behavioral plans: Phil did some research and found that other camps ask on their applications whether the camper has an IEP, and if so, whether the parent would like to share it with the camp. We don’t yet know what the rules surrounding these types of questions are. The Board agrees that we wish to present this (if it is presented on the application at all) as a positive, “This will not disqualify your camper from attending; we are trying to help your camper have the most positive possible experience at CQNW” type of thing. Bridget points out that an IEP is a legally binding document. Phil clarifies that we just need to find some way to ask about behavior issues, what the parent has found to be the best way of dealing with them, and how we might incorporate that information into provide campers with the best possible experience for them. Mike suggests asking, “Are there any tools or strategies that you or your camper’s teachers use to help address any behavior issues that may arise with your camper? We want to be sure your camper enjoys camp as much as possible.”

Programming Committee proposes “Q-Files” for 2017 theme (skepticism, investigation, cryptozoology, UFOs, etc. X-Files stuff.) We still need to officially finalized it in discussion between Mike, Libbie, and members of Programming Committee, but there is enthusiastic support from the Board at large and other attendees.

Kathy’s recommended changes to refund policy: \$100 deposit not refundable; before final payment deadline, everything but deposit is refundable; after final payment deadline, all but deposit is refundable but only if we are able to fill the spot; donations to help another camper are not refundable.

January 15th is the Tri-City Freethinkers event, where we will go to make a pitch to find more staff. Libbie, Paul, Bridget, and Meg are interested in going with Chuck to help round up more volunteers.

Bridget suggests we begin contacting college campuses, approaching their freethinking, humanist, or atheist societies, to help find more staff, too.

Joel may be able to find more volunteers from Puerto Rico colleges for the June session!

Kneon from Camp Kirby let us know at the last session that Camp Kirby campers are no longer allowed to pound on tables because they broke a table! We will need to determine the best way to curb table-pounding during the Announcements Song.

Joel brings up the thought that we should make music a more integrated part of camp. (Shelley and Paul [Libbie's husband] to help develop a music program?)

Joel is moving forward with developing a CQ Puerto Rico program. He will be contacting CQNW staff for input as he develops the program.

Action Items:

Mike wants to go over Programming Committee items with Libbie.

Phil to present semi-final draft of Grant Committee guidelines at Dec 20th board meeting.

Add questions about mixed-gender cabins on camper and staff application forms.

Kathy to update the registration page based on the answers to her specific questions (in italics) above. Kathy will also need to update the application with refund policy to be sure parents are aware of it.

Chuck to contact Camp Kirby to reserve the space for Planning Retreat. Prefer March 25/26. March 18/19 or April 1 and 2 would also be do-able.

Chuck to update web site to detail new refund policies.

Mike to follow up with Kathy regarding updates to application, as detailed above.

Mike to send previous year's planning retreat agenda to Libbie so she can review it.

Chuck to post on the parents' list to solicit more staff (and mention Grants Committee and Programming Committee.)

Next Board Meeting:

December 20, 2016 at 6 p.m.
Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, Wa)

End time:
8:28 p.m.