

## **Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes**

**Keisers' house (755 SE 10th St., North Bend, WA 98045)**

**July 6, 2011 at 7:00pm**

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Treasurer – Jerry Schiffelbein

Members at Large – John Keiser, Mary Keiser

Others in attendance:

Shirley Portegys

### **Action Items:**

- \* Chuck: Type up notes from Camp Quest Ohio experience and send them to the list.
- \* Chuck: Start once-a-week blog entries about CQ Ohio experience.
- \* Chuck: Contact CQ Inc. to nail down date for the board meeting and incorporation.
- \* Chuck & John: Write press release, finish by Friday.
- \* Chuck: Create send-kids-to-camp email list.
- \* Chuck: Update both email lists with sign-ups from Fremont, Pride, and the Fourth of July Picnic. For those who didn't specify their interests, add them to the volunteer/organizational list.
- \* Chuck: Set up campquestnorthwest.org email addresses for board members.
- \* Chuck: Prepare for potential interview questions.
- \* Chuck: Continue working on background checks. Goal to have everything done by August 1.
- \* Jami: Final edit of press release.
- \* Jami: 8.5" x 11" flyer, based on press release.
- \* Jami: Send message to Seattle Atheists Meetup members about August Picnic.
- \* Jami: Finalize logo design.
- \* Jami: Gather information about T-shirts for August Picnic. Café Press?

- \* Jami: Start putting meeting minutes on website.
- \* Chuck, John, Mary, Shirley: Send press release to the public, Sunday night.
- \* John: Set up ChipIn widget.
- \* John: Send Twitter account info to Chuck and Jami.
- \* Jerry: Count donations from Fourth of July Picnic.
- \* Jerry: Communicate with Ranjan about Microsoft advertising, give him our press release.
- \* Jerry: Contact Sam and Mike about Ask an Atheist interviews/mentions.
- \* Jerry: Contact Rich about Living After Faith. De-conversion interview with Chuck?
- \* Brennon: Continue looking into Camp Waskowitz. Call and informally reserve the camp until we can check it out on Sunday. Reserve immediately if the deposit is refundable.
- \* Brennon: Continue working on older kids' activities, figure out details.
- \* Brennon: Contact volunteer list for activity helpers. Each activity to have a leader and assistant.
- \* Brennon: Look into doing a Socrates Café.
- \* Mary: Continue working on young kids' activities, figure out what supplies are needed.
- \* Mary: Include CQNW article in Seattle Atheists' next newsletter. Use info from press release.
- \* Shirley: Put together material for her presentations. Will use content from the press release.
- \* Everyone: Blog content.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

**Start time:** 7:15 p.m.

- \* Previous meeting minutes were adopted.

### **Review of action items from previous meeting:**

- \* Chuck: Start filing process with the State of Washington. **[On hold until we can get name resolved.]**

\* Chuck: Look into IntelliCorp for background checking and see if they're reputable. [**American Camping Association has a list of recommended background checks, and we'll most likely go through this route.**]

\* Chuck: Talk to Native American contact about logo design. Is it an acceptable symbol for the Northwest, or is it offensive? Are there ways to alter it, or should we scrap it? [**Chuck has placed an inquiry, still waiting to hear back.**]

\* Chuck: Get press contacts from Amanda, talk to her about advertising. [**ongoing, CQ has a big database of contacts.**]

\* Chuck: American Atheists article – contact Pamela. [**Waiting for press release before continuing**]

\* Chuck: Contact Amanda about setting up a week-long camp next year. Find out her availability. [**Amanda will move her schedule around for us. South Carolina is also doing their first week-long camp next year. Will want to avoid conflicting dates. Amanda has agreed to be an assistant director.**]

\* Chuck & John: Work on the website (rough draft by next meeting), ChipIn, Wordpress [**Got a basic website up and running, no real content yet. Wordpress-based site – we need to pick a theme/template. Need content, ideally one blog entry a week (the more the better). Link to social networking sites. Link relevant/interesting info.**]

\* Chuck: Look into American Camping Association Certification [**ongoing**]

\* Chuck: Create separate email list for people who are only interested in sending their kids to camp. [**still needs to be done**]

\* Chuck: Update email lists with new contacts. [**still needs to be done**]

\* Chuck: Contact bloggers about CQNW. [**waiting for press release**]

\* John: Work on press release. [**ongoing, try to finish in the next few days**]

\* Brennon: Contact Cottage Lake and Waskowitz about tour dates. [**Done. Will not make a Meetup for the Waskowitz tour, keep it mostly board members.**]

\* Brennon: Continue working on freethought activities for August potluck. [**ongoing. He's narrowing the list down. Should we spend a lot of money on this? Probably not. For ages 8-12: solar power (a lot of money); Cokes and Mentos; baggy ice cream; playing with air; acids and bases. Older: oobleck experiment (cornstarch and water) \$1/pound; sports?; dry ice; robotics (Lego Mindstorm); code breaking (break the code and create a better one)**]

\* Jami: Make a sign with logo for the Fourth of July Picnic (Fast Signs). [**Done.**]

- \* Jami: Update brochure inserts and replace old ones. **[Done.]**
- \* Jami: T-shirts (or at the very least, buttons) for the Fourth. Board members only. **[Done. Only had time for buttons.]**
- \* Jami: Send email to Chuck with Fremont and Pride sign-ups. **[Done.]**
- \* Jami: Make note in CQNW August Meetup about food/utensils/no alcohol. **[Done.]**
- \* Jami: Send email sign-ups to Chuck. **[Done.]**
- \* Jami: Talk to Eliza about being a camp doctor. (she might be overthinking it) **[Done. Her response: “My training (since medical school) & practice are with adults, but for 1 day in case of emergencies, I can pinch hit.” We think this would be more than okay for the week-long camp, that we don’t need someone specifically trained in pediatrics. Will get back to her to see if she’s interested.]**
- \* Mary: Freethought activities for ages seven and under. **[ongoing]**
- \* Mary: Look into North Bend gymnasium rental for November event. **[Will send information to the list. Needs a date for a reservation. November 19<sup>th</sup> is open, November 5<sup>th</sup> as a backup]**

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

- \* No bank account yet. Jerry is keeping track of receipts/expenditures. Right now he’s set up virtual accounts payable and receivable through Seattle Atheists.
- \* Rapture Relief donations have leveled off around \$2,700. Humanists of North Puget Sound will match our donations this year up to \$10,000.
- \* Donations from Fourth of July Potluck are to go to Camp Quest. Money still needs to be counted.

### **Board Nominations:**

- \* Kofi was unable to make it, so we’ll hold off his nomination until the next meeting he’s available.
- \* Chuck nominated Shirley, seconded by John. According to the Bylaws, we will wait two weeks to vote her in. Shirley shared her experience in secular activism and her interest in Camp Quest.
- \* Chuck raised a concern with Article IV, Section 7: Doesn’t specifically say we need a majority of a quorum to vote for a member. It might be a problem in the future, but for now we’re letting it go.

\* August meeting to decide if we can become chapter: It's the first or second week of August. Chuck needs to find out the exact date. Technically, we will register as Camp Quest.

### **Conflict about Camp Quest NorthWest name:**

\* Concerns were brought before us that "Camp Quest NorthWest" sounds too much like "Camp Quest West." Over the last week the board has been discussing the pros and cons of changing the name. We'd still like to keep CQNW, as it fits our geographic area best, but will be nimble. We proceed with the name "at risk," realizing that it may need to be changed later.

\* If a name change is necessary, it's reasonable to allow a year for the transition.

### **Fundraising Plan:**

\* Write Press Release as soon as possible. Pitch: We want donations and campers. Explain who, what, where, when, why. Mention that the money we collect this year will be matched. Give hard dates and times about events. We'll need supplies, volunteers.

\* Accepting registrations/reservations – Maybe at August Picnic, definitely have early registration at November event.

\* Registrations: A lot of camps are using Wufoo.com, which provides an easy way of creating forms and databases on the fly. This would work well for us, too. We'd also maintain data in our own database. Camper payment options: deposits, payments plans, pay all at once, camperships, discounted prices (sliding scale).

\* Cost per camper: about \$650. Price includes camp, food, and staff member.

\* To keep in mind: What can we do to defray costs?

\* When we promote next year's week-long camp, do not disclose price. We've figured out the approximate amount per camper, but the details aren't hammered out yet. We don't want parents to have the wrong expectations.

\* To do: Sit down and have a budget exercise to figure out exactly what our costs will be.

\* Waskowitz. \$250 for deposit, and they'll bill us later. We'd like to book the camp two or three years in advance.

\* Brennon: Will call immediately and informally reserve the camp. We need to check it out first.

### **July 10 Tour of Waskowitz:**

\* Brennon: "We are a go for 3pm, Sunday July 10th. They have a soccer group starting that day around 1pm, so we'll be able to see the camp in action a bit. They said, it's probably best to keep this initial visit adults only. We should park in front of the main office where there will be a staff member available to meet with us."

- \* John to set up ChipIn widget as soon as possible. The goal is to direct people to the website widget for donations.
- \* Shirley will work on material for her speaking tour using content from the press release. She will also need business cards and flyers for her presentations.
- \* Chuck to set up campquestnorthwest.org email addresses for board members.
- \* Best time to send out press release: Sunday night, so it's in everyone's inbox Monday morning.
- \* Shirley, Mary, John, Chuck – Send out press release Sunday. Finish by Friday night so Jami can edit it.
- \* Chuck is off work next week and is available for interviews. Should be prepped for potential questions. Likely question: Does Camp Quest indoctrinate kids? Remember, first and foremost, we are a CAMP. Second, it's about critical thinking.
- \* Advertising at schools: Hand out flyers for camp. Call ahead of time to find out what's allowed. General rule: Must not show preference.
- \* Chuck: Write up experiences from CQ Ohio, send to list. Great material for blog posts.
- \* Make a list of Meetups, check them off as we contact them. Best to go in person.
- \* 8.5" x 11" Flyer – Jami
- \* Get a hold of Microsoft freethinkers. Jerry to contact Ranjan with the press release. Also, Microsoft matches donations.
- \* Ask an Atheist: Advertising, possibly do a show. It would be great if we could do two shows: one before August picnic, one before January registration. They will also give us mentions. Jerry to email Sam and Mike.
- \* Living After Faith: Interview with Chuck, blog, shout-out, etc.
- \* Jami – SA Meetup message about August picnic.
- \* John – send Twitter info to Chuck and Jami.
- \* Background check deadline: By August 1. SSN-based check. Chuck: week of July 27.

**Fourth of July Picnic review:**

- \* Overall, there was lots of enthusiasm about CQNW. We filled over a page of sign-up contacts. People were asking about age range.

\* Specify ages for campers and CITs. Campers must be no younger than 8. Seventeen is the right age for CITs.

\* Camp counselors are paid by camper tuition.

**August Picnic:**

Proposed agenda:

- \* noon - 2:00pm - Registration, food, mingling.
- \* 2:00pm - 2:15pm - Presentation
- \* 2:15pm - 3:00pm - Icebreaker Activities
- \* 3:00pm - 5:00pm - Main events

\* At least two people running an activity. Parents recommended to sit back and watch. We want to simulate the actual camp experience as much as possible.

\* Brennon: Contact volunteer list for activity helpers. Each activity to have a leader and assistant.

\* Brennon: Look into doing a Socrates Café session.

\* Potluck: Jami and Kai to coordinate food. Should work on a shopping list during next meeting.

\* Needed: Specific people assigned as greeters. According to rules, greeters must stay in reserved area. Can't go around to other parts of the site.

\* T-shirts for August. Jami to provide details at next meeting. Café Press?

\* Note: Write down any questions you have for Camp Waskowitz.

**Next meeting:**

Camp Waskowitz (45505 Southeast 150th Street, North Bend, WA)  
July 10, 3pm

**Meeting after that:**

Keisers' house (755 SE 10th St., North Bend, WA 98045)  
Wednesday, July 27, 7pm sharp

**End time:** 10:08pm