

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

Keisers' house (755 SE 10th St., North Bend, WA 98155)

August 23, 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, Yuichi Shoda

Action Items:

- * Chuck: Contact CQ Ohio about using photos in his blog entries. If not, ask about posting images of activities from previous years, or get generic images.
- * Chuck: Look into Flickr.com to store CQNW's pictures. Create an account.
- * Chuck and Jerry: Talk to BECU and other places about getting a merchant account.
- * Chuck: Ask Amanda when they usually start recruiting counselors.
- * Chuck: Tell Amanda about our progress, how the August Potluck went.
- * Everyone who bought t-shirts: Pay \$15 per shirt through the ChipIn widget on the website.
- * Mary and Jennifer: Figure out how many children's t-shirts to order.
- * Brennon: Ask for further details about lifeguard/archery/rock wall training.
- * Jami: Tell Jason about our plan to order more t-shirts.
- * Jami: Work on design for 2' x 6' banner.
- * John: Write a website widget to accept donations so we can get rid of ChipIn.
- * John: Research tools like Wufoo to see if they offer everything we need.
- * John: Stay in touch with Humanists of North Puget Sound. Put a link to them (and other affiliates) on our website.
- * John: Make videos of August Potluck available. Is it possible to edit them so they're not sideways?
- * John: Write review of August Potluck for the blog.

- * Jerry: Contact Gayatri about hosting the September 7 board meeting.
- * Mary: Send 501(c)3 document to Mount Si Community Center.

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 7:05 p.m.

- * Previous meeting minutes were adopted.

Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting:

- * Chuck: Find out if we need a business license to open account at BECU. **[done]**
- * Chuck and Jerry: Open account at BECU. **[waiting for license]**
- * Chuck: Add pictures to CQ Ohio blog entries. **[Chuck's understanding is that the pictures from 2011 are not for public consumption. Chuck will ask if he can use them. Try to find generic images, or images from previous years. Should also get a Flickr account.]**
- * Jami: Work on information sheets, new brochure inserts. **[done]**
- * Everyone who bought t-shirts: Pay \$15 per shirt through the Chip-In widget on the website. **[ongoing]**
- * Jerry: Contact Liz about t-shirt payment to Jason. **[Liz sent check today]**
- * Jerry: Bring projector and screen, name tags and markers. **[done]**
- * Jerry: Send Seattle Atheists' 501(c)3 document to Mary. **[done]**
- * Jerry & Chuck: Go to Costco to buy supplies. **[done]**
- * Brennon: Contact Camp Kirby to reserve it, August 14 - 21. **[done]**
- * Mary and John: Bring video recorder. **[done. John took video, although most of them are sideways.]**
- * Mary: Send a list to Jerry of what she needs from Costco. She'll buy the rest of it at the grocery store. **[done]**
- * Mary: Finish registering North Bend gymnasium. **[What we need to do: Send 501(c)3 document. They review and approve our nonprofit status. Then we will fill out their application packet.]**
- * Yuichi, Jerry, & Jami: Figure out what needs to be retrieved from Seattle Atheists storage. Yuichi will pick up the items from storage before the event (Jerry will meet him at storage). **[done]**
- * Shirley: Make brightly colored sign to direct people to the park. Print out logo, if possible. **[done]**

Financial Report:

- * Balance same as before. Jerry hasn't had a chance to download new contributions.
- * Ongoing: Will talk about how to have up-to-date reporting for each board meeting. Chuck to help.

Cottage Lake Picnic Post-Mortem:

- * Total in attendance: Around 60 people.

- * Overall, outstanding experience. Parents and kids were very happy, pumped up about CQNW.
- * Brennon: Good experience, could have been better. Not as much science as he would have preferred, but we're glad the kids were having fun. That was our focus for the first event. In November, we'll be indoors and have clearer boundaries for each activity. Kids won't be as distracted.
- * The BBQ concept worked well. However, the grill was a royal pain to work, and dangerous to the kids. Will need to consider this in the future.
- * Food: Huge success – Lots of healthy dishes.
- * Sign-in sheet is needed for future events. This will help us get an accurate head count. There was a little bit of confusion at the info table because we only had an email-list sign-up.
- * The green CQNW t-shirts looked good on the volunteers. Could easily identify the people in charge.
- * One criticism, which seems to have been either overblown or made up: A parent claimed that someone asked her about indoctrinating kids into atheism. We're pretty sure no one would say this, as it's explicitly against our philosophy. Nonetheless, we need to know how to field these sorts of criticisms.
- * Chuck recommends checking out Edwin Kagan's Canon.
- * **First hour:** Only a few people trickling in. People arrived a little later than expected. Started eating after 1pm.
- * **Mingling:** Seemed to be a success. Greeters welcomed the newcomers and got them name tags. People were moving around to different tables.
- * **Chuck's presentation:** Went well. People had the opportunity to ask questions. Everyone was excited that we'll have a week-long camp next year.
- * **Icebreakers:** Rock, Paper, Scissors, Snake was a fun, quick activity to get everyone moving. Name Tag game was the best – got people to interact with and learn about each other.
- * **Cokes and Mentos:** The nozzles didn't work, but it was still a success. Kids had fun dropping Mentos directly into the bottles. Brennon would like to have videos of the activity for the website.
- * **Making Baggie Ice Cream:** Worked great, everyone had fun. Good for a first activity, grabs the kids' attention. Parents also got involved, which actually helped us out. Older kids' ice cream also went well.
- * **Dry-Ice Ice Cream:** Didn't really work, and there wasn't too much interest by that point.

* **Oobleck:** Fun, educational, and memorable. Parents and kids loved putting their hands in the container. Jumping on it was a blast. Lesson: Make sure they understand that you have to hold someone's hand when they're jumping on the Oobleck. Kids got stuck and tried to get out too quickly, so they fell down. Need to have a cleaner area, or do it indoors. Also, we've still got about 60 lbs. left over.

* **Dancing Raisins:** Big success, got all the science in.

* **Homemade Play Dough:** Kids loved it.

* **Socrates Café:** Discussion went well. Kids loved talking, even had disagreements.

* Volunteers/staff/counselors must learn the intricacies of how to interact with and engage different kids' personality types. How do you handle a child who's reclusive? How do you handle a very high-functioning kid who's in a different league than his/her peers?

* In general, the pacing of the event was good.

* **Camp Quest NorthWest Junior:** Mary suggests doing an event like this once a year to focus on the younger children. Gives parents and kids a chance to mingle and get to know one another. There are a lot of little freethinkers, not as many teenagers (our observation so far). We could even set a precedent for other camps. Task: get data points from other camps who've done similar events.

Camp Kirby:

* Brennon will turn in the paperwork shortly. Will write the check once we have a bank account.

* Erin Baldwin would be a great addition to our efforts. She's interested on a personal level.

* Brennon went over the facility information. Reserving for August 14 through 21 next year. That's a total of 8 days, 7 nights, for which the deposit will be \$1,387.50 (25% of \$4,550 for the 7 nights and a \$250 refundable damage deposit). The check is due within 60 days. Brennon also told them we'll be using their food service.

* Kirby holds work parties, so we can familiarize ourselves with the camp – Brennon will let her know we're interested.

* We need to start thinking about certified teachers/lifeguards for archery/waterfront/climbing wall. Hire someone from Kirby or get one of our own certified.

* Everyone should get First Aid certified.

T-shirt Plan:

* Purple t-shirt for non-staff members.

* Quantity of Green shirts:

1 S

3 L

1 XXXL

* Tell Jason: We want 30 children's shirts in purple. Mary will talk to Jennifer about distribution of sizes.

Setting Priorities:

* Fundraising & Marketing

* Do something new. That's what will make us stand out.

* Camp Quest Junior is something fairly novel. Build this up.

* Doing babysitting for conferences.

* November event

* Start planning October 1.

* Registration

* Will involve some coding on our end. Probably use a SQL database on our own server.

* Other option is to use Wufoo.

* Chuck suggests getting a merchant account. Get rid of Paypal.

* Doesn't *need* to happen quickly, but we should get the ball rolling if possible.

* Programming

* Also includes recruiting and training.

* Need to plan far ahead.

* Affiliated links should go on our website, including Seattle Atheists and Humanists of North Puget Sound.

* John: Talk to Humanists of North Puget Sound, stay in touch.

* **Banner:** Fastsigns has offered to give us a 2' x 6' free sign because Jami wrote a positive review for them. Jami will work on a sign, similar to the current one, but also with the slogan, "A summer camp beyond belief."

Next Meeting:

Jami's home (11008 NE 140th St., Kirkland, WA 98034)

Wednesday, September 7, 7pm sharp

End time: 10:10pm