

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, WA)

Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 6:30pm sharp

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice-President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Members at Large – Becky Friedman, Michael Warbington

Action Items:

- * Chuck: Prepare calendar for next meeting. List specifics of what we need.
- * Chuck: Post agenda for next meeting.
- * Chuck: Poll staff about interest in running two camp sessions. Remember to mention dates – June tends to be a busy month for a lot of people.
- * Chuck: Notify non-active board members about stepping down. Reminder about upcoming elections.
- * Michael: Send out a message about joining the volunteer email list.
- * Jami: Put next 2 meetings on Meetup.
- * Becky: Write a blog post about 2014 camp session. Get photos and possibly “Happy” video from Gordon.

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 7:30 p.m. (Discussion about camp happened while waiting for a quorum.)

- * Chuck moves to accept the July 29 board meeting minutes without reading them. Becky seconds.
- * July 29 meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

- * Contact Brennon for details.

Brian Demong’s Resignation:

- * On August 31, via email, Brian Demong resigned from his position as Member at Large on the CQNW board.

Camp Quest NorthWest 2014 Session Review:

- * Brennon has read through all the camp reviews – they were very positive.
- * Lots of kids. Difficult to remember names, especially in pods.
Action: going to print names on both sides. Post pictures of campers and staff in manual.
- * Brian’s comments:
 1. Camper got a rash from wetting himself, and Brian didn’t notice right away. Another way in which having too many campers was a detriment.
 2. Separating Dan from the Prophet was a good idea.

3. Architeuthis mocks religion. Should we be more sensitive? General consensus is that Architeuthis is a useful activity. We do this to promote critical thinking, using some humor.
4. LT program: There were some problems this year.
5. Picture show: Some campers shown a lot more than others. Also, too much scenery.
6. Need a prank policy (even if it's a positive prank).
7. Some photos and videos were posted during camp, raising parents' expectations about notifications. This concern has already been addressed.
8. Hi Tor was a terrible place to put counselors. Counselors were separated from campers.
9. Throughout the week, felt like criticism was more and more unwelcome. Michael elaborates on his experience: Didn't feel like staff was always on the same page. Lots of people, some disconnects. Becky: Need to remember to focus on problem solving, rather than negative complaints.

Nora's comments:

1. Number of campers too large, hard to manage.
2. Too many staff to work with. Hard to build relationships.
3. Also has suggestions for LT program. Found it very challenging.

Jesse's comments:

Jesse has attended many different Camp Quests around the country. Has lots of positive feedback.

1. She thought that CQNW was the least cliquy camp.
2. Huge range of socio-economic backgrounds, but it wasn't obvious like in other camps.
3. Thought the food was bad, especially for the first few days, and especially for those with food restrictions.
4. Medical briefs were very valuable.
5. Programming: Good mix of physical and cerebral activities. Also had rainy day backups.
6. Campfires were fun, but a little disorganized. Some camps do a highly scripted campfires.
7. Cross-pollination between Camp Quest counselors is a good thing.

* LT program in general:

Making LT-age teenagers leaders who don't want to be leaders: How do we handle this? Make them regular campers, even though they'll get bored with younger camper activities? Push them to be leaders? There's an argument for both sides.

* Youngest campers need to have a cabin with electricity. For future, we won't use those cabins. The board didn't know they wouldn't have electricity.

* Campfire was better controlled this year.

Natalie's comments:

1. This was her best year of camp. Lots of positive experiences.
2. Better organized.
3. Hard to learn everyone's names. During morning flagpole, Natalie yelling everyone's names in the morning was an excellent way to review names, and also make it look like we know each other well.
4. Explained her experience running Capture the Flag. Wants jerseys and flags.

* Having a set task for afternoon blocks was a good idea.

* Chuck's breathing and relaxing exercises: Good tool to use to calm people down.

* Medical Tent:

Took too long to move campers through the medical tent, especially at night. Can this be avoided? Some campers weren't getting back to the cabin until after lights out.

Waz is a lot of fun, which is super helpful for making the campers more comfortable. But there needs to be more organization.

- * Sharon: New inventory master. She will be inventorying items in the storage unit, creating supply list.

- * General consensus about number of people: Too many campers. We managed well given the circumstances, but it was difficult. 80 would be easier.

Planning for Future:

- * Chuck will have a calendar ready for next meeting. Will help with agendas.

- * Chuck is putting together committees that people can participate in. These groups will report back to the board at board meetings.

 - * Darwin Day committee

 - * Staffing committee

 - * Programming committee

Concerning Running 2 Camps:

Review of Field Trip to 4H Center in Salem, Oregon (September 6):

- * The camp is available final week of June 2015

- * Weyerhaeuser Shelter (fridge, firepit, sink, bathroom, electric lights and outlets, picnic tables for 20-30 people)

- * Cascara House (meeting/lounge space, full kitchen, 6 bedrooms with bunk beds (capacity: 24), 2 floors, full baths/showers)

- * Lots of Open Areas/Fields

- * Gray Hall (fully wired sound system, stage, 2 ½-size basketball courts, fir-lined, 2 attached learning classrooms w/screens, kitchen)

- * Lots of trails

- * Trout Lake (500 trout, fishing pier, canoes for paddling, spring fed, small ~14 ft, not for swimming)

- * Pool for swimming (YMCA uses pool in the morning; camp rental includes lifeguard for afternoon swim time)

- * Archery (hay bales, locking equipment shed)

- * Rustic cabins (electric lights, heat, screens, 10 bunk beds)

- * Pretty standard bathrooms/shower house

- * No climbing wall

- * Adventure swing (2 trees on a slope; wear harness/helmet, take running jump and swing around tree)

- * Cottages (Bunk bed rooms, futon common space, full kitchen, 1 or 2 full baths, very fancy)

- * Medical facility (Walk-up window, common room w/fridge, locked cab, sofa; 2 “sick” rooms; 1 queen bed private room for nurse; break room next door for snack storage)

- * Chapel (amazing rocks and minerals. Opportunity to study geology/fossils)

- * Dining hall

- * Amphitheatre (Lit stage, fire pit, seating for 300, stage gets really hot during the day)

- * Horse camp (separate from the rest of camp. end-of-camp party location)

- * One possible turnoff: Camp is next to an orchard and a survivalist who likes to shoot off guns.

- * Biggest concern about 2 sessions: How do we staff two camps? What are the logistics? Do we have the institutional energy to pull this off? Do we come up with two different programs, or two identical programs? Can campers attend both?

- * Idea for 2-camp registration: For the first two months: Can only sign up for one camp. After that, campers can sign up for both sessions.

- * If we stick with only one camp, we'll have to turn away a lot of kids if we cap our campers around 80.

- * Advantages of one more single-session camp: Improve programming/staffing/organizing based on feedback. Fine-tune it to make it run smoother.
- * Major disadvantage of single camp: We're turning away campers, possibly losing good will. No opportunity to grow for the next year, especially if we get a lot of returning campers (which is almost guaranteed to happen).
- * Pros of two weeks: Easier to manage programming. Both locations will offer different activity and learning opportunities.
- * Need to poll staff about level of interest/commitment in two sessions. Chuck will do this.
- * Need to have more meetings per month. Board meetings and programming meetings. Weekdays and weekends.
- * Another possibility with two camps: Have a smaller trial camp in Oregon.
- * Election of new board members in October.
- * Camp Quest Leadership Summit: Texas, February 20-22.
- * Vote: Brennon moves to elect Becky Friedman as programming chair. Chuck seconds. Decision passes unanimously.

Camp Decision Meeting:

Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 11:00am

Location: Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, WA)

Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6:30pm

Location: Round Table Pizza (15730 1st Ave S, Burien, WA)

End time: 9:56 pm