

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

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

Saturday, October 11, 2014, 11:00am

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice-President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Members at Large – Becky Friedman, Michael Warbington, Lou Amadio

Others in attendance: Kayla Ritchie, Colleen McCaw, Bridget Lombardo, Natalie Koonce (via speakerphone), Paul Mopps, Chauni Porter, Jesse Wales, Adam Eichholz, Sean Duncan, Sharon Zolnowsky, Stephen Peterson, Nick Kennedy, Chase Keffeler

Action Items:

* Everyone: In the November meeting: Discuss giving an early-bird registration to returning campers and staff. How do we handle this with two sessions?

* Chuck: Contact outgoing board members about stepping down to open spots for interested nominees.

* Chuck: Remove Jerry Schiffelbein from bank account.

* Chuck and Sharon: Add Sharon to bank account, and get her access to the storage unit.

* Lou: Feedback form

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 11:24am

* August meeting minutes: Chuck pointed out an error in the minutes, and Jami corrected it. After the correction was made, Chuck moved to accept the August meeting minutes without reading them. Lou seconded. The board accepted the minutes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

* Contact Brennon for details.

Committee Structure and Members:

Staffing Committee:

- Conducts staff interviews.
- Develops staff training.
- Develops staff team building.
- Staff recruiting.
- Staff handbook development.
- Manage staff applications.
- Staff feedback form after camp.
- 1 on 1 post camp feedback / exit interviews.
- Chase Keffeler - organize post-camp interviews.

- Cabin lead training. (Check in with your staff, etc.)

Finding staff: We want to engage with groups of people who don't always associate with atheist groups.

Programming Committee:

- Chair: Becky Friedman
- Members: Brennon Church, Kayla Ritchie, Colleen McCaw, Stephen Peterson, Jesse Wales, Bridget Lombardo, Adam Eichholz, Chauni Porter, Nora Jameson, Carol Brouillette

Timeline of Deliverables:

DATE	DELIVERABLE	DETAILS/STEPS
Nov. 2014 Board Meeting	Program Committee Process Document	Review 2014 process document; develop committee goals & objectives that align with org mission/vision; define norms and steps for committee operation; refine Program Committee Guidance and milestones (this document) as needed
Dec 2015 Board Meeting	Present registration options for campers age 15+/10th grade+	Develop program expectations and options for older teens at either/both locations; articulate related staff positions; articulate how that looks in registration and on website
Jan. 2015 Board Meeting	Planning retreat proposal	Articulate retreat goals & objectives; present a schedule for Sat. retreat workshops; present instructional handouts to be used at retreat; present activity development templates to be used at retreat
Feb. 2015 Board Meeting	Revised planning retreat schedule and materials	As above, revised and refined; Present articulated training modules for retreat
Mar 2015 Retreat	Electronic and photocopy handouts	
Apr. 2015 Board Meeting	Pre-camp staff training proposal (programming component) Programming materials requests Camp session programming booklet (electronic form)	Plan for training instructors/activity leaders immediately prior to camp session Broken out by activity, detailed specs for quartermaster Reference/directory of all activities; Instructors/experts should "own" their activity, but booklet has details sufficient for an uninitiated staff member to have a reasonable chance of running the activity
May 2015 Board Meeting	Revised pre-camp training document (program component) Revised program booklet	Training may need revision after coordination with counselor leads, director(s), etc. Activities may need revision based on availability of materials, staff, unforeseen circumstances
June Camp	Printed program booklet, run Camp Session 1	Give immediate feedback on programming changes for identical activities to be executed in Aug

Jun/Jul Board Meeting	Printed program booklet	
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Proposed Committee Goals and Objectives (for adoption by committee members):

The goal of Camp Quest NorthWest programming:

- Motivate campers to use confusion and uncertainty to drive inquiry.
- Identify whether an explanation is a reasoned one based on evidence.
- Foster a sense of discomfort with unquestioned explanations.

Objectives:

- Use a theme to guide programming and unify the inquiry experience; a theme anchors program developers and instructors while allowing for creativity.
- Activities will include as many of the following disciplines as reasonable (individual activities should address one or more of them):
 - Art, design, and creative expression
 - Biology/life sciences
 - Chemistry
 - Citizenship and sustainability
 - Engineering and technological design
 - Health and physical education
 - Mathematics
 - Philosophy and freethought
 - Physics
 - Psychology
- Considerations for designing activities:
 - Avoid didactic presentation (lecture)
 - Campers should learn/solve/create through a process of questioning, trial, and error.
 - Activities should utilize inquiry in ways that intentionally maximize fun.
 - Activities should foster community and bonding.
 - Emphasis should be on cooperation rather than competition.
- Age considerations:
 - Some activities may disaggregate activities per age of camper, especially for older teens.
 - Teen programming will use inquiry to explore leadership at camp and the larger community.

Registration Committee:

- Chair: Kathy Amadio
- Members: Chuck Wolber, Bridget Lombardo, Brennon Church (logistics), Paul Mopps

Darwin Day Committee:

- Chair: Chase Keffeler
- Members: Sean Duncan

Social Committee:

- Chair: Bridget Lombardo
- Members: Kayla Ritchie, Jami Blackann

Artist:

- Jesse Wales
- Responsible for: T-shirt design, badges, website banner

Proposed Committee Norms (for adoption by committee members):

- Record and document ideas, modes of proposed implementation, and recommendations for Board approval
- Assume best intent of committee participants
- When a problem or conflict is noticed, bring it to the fore with a proposed intervention/solution/alternate way of doing things
- Member will keep commitments by the agreed-upon due date, either by fulfilling one's assigned task or by requesting help/delegating in advance
- Members will communicate respectful to and of one another, distinguishing criticism of ideas or actions vs. personal criticism
- Members will strive to make decisions by consensus, but majority may rule if timely consensus is not reached; conflicts will be resolved directly with the persons in conflict

Members at Large Nominations:

- Chuck moved to nominate the following people as Members at Large on the board of directors. Brennon seconded.
- Gordon Schryer, Bridget Lombardo, Natalie Koonce, Paul Mopps, Kayla Ritchie
- Plan is to present candidate statements at the next board meeting (October 21). Board members will vote online so we can get them on the board as quickly as possible.

Access to Bank Account and Storage Unit:

- Vote: Chuck made a motion to grant Sharon Zolnowsky access to CQNW's bank account to spend money as agreed upon by the board, along with a key to the storage unit. Becky seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Vote: Chuck made a motion to remove Jerry Schiffelbein from the bank account. Brennon seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about Running Two CQNW Sessions in 2015:

- The board and volunteers weighed the pros and cons of running two sessions in 2015. One session would be held in August at Camp Kirby with a lower camper limit, and the extra session would be held in June at the 4-H Center in Salem, Oregon.

Pros of 2 sessions:

- Can continue to grow without turning away campers. In 2014, we hit Camp Kirby's limit for campers and staff, and even that felt a little too big. Growth of the organization in general.
- Can plan programming with smaller groups. When we have 90 – 100 campers, it's difficult to run the camp the way we want to.
- Regional expansion for staff and campers.
- Avoid staffing conflicts with school (some college students are back in school in August during the Camp Kirby session).
- Easier to feel connected to smaller, more manageable groups of people.

Cons of 2 sessions:

- Finding time and energy to plan two camps.
- Logistics of running camp in two different places. Hard to unify across that much territory.

- Campers will want to attend both sessions, and we want to discourage this to give new campers an opportunity to attend camp.
- Likewise, some staff may feel left out if they are only able to attend one session.
- Difficult to find enough staff
- Staff concerns from the previous sessions would need to be addressed:
 - Misallocation of people
 - Training and organization
 - Better communication with and use of floating staff
- After a lot of discussion, the general consensus was that the board and volunteers can resolve potential downsides to running two sessions, and the benefits outweigh the cons.

Vote: Chuck made a motion to add a second session at the Oregon camp in June 2015. Michael seconded.

- The motion passed unanimously. CQNW will have two sessions in summer 2015.

Vote: Chuck made a motion to limit the size of Camp Kirby registrations to 80 campers or less; Oregon to 50 or less. Michael seconded.

- The motion passed unanimously.
- Planning Retreat: Will be held at the Oregon camp so we can familiarize ourselves with the new territory.
- There's a big desire for more activities in between camp sessions to keep volunteers connected to each other. The newly formed Social Committee will work on creating more events.

Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 6:30pm

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

End time: 2:13 pm