

## Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

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

Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:30pm

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Treasurer – Michael Warbington

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Members at Large – Lou Amadio, Phil Cole, Paul Mopps, Bridget Lombardo, Natalie Bornfleth

Others in attendance: Brian Demong, Meg Colburn, Sharon Zolnowsky

### Action Items:

\* Chuck: Contact Eliza about being on health committee.

\* Long-Term Site Search Committee: Have a phone meeting with interested parties to discuss details about the site search.

\* Natalie: Get info about short-term site search from Brennon and Becky (available in Google Drive). Continue researching options for 2017.

\* Anyone in need of financial assistance for CQ Leadership Summit: Submit request to the Board.

### Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 6:54pm

\* Chuck moved to accept the December minutes without a public reading. Bridget seconded. The Board accepted the minutes unanimously.

### Review of Previous Meeting's Action Items:

\* Chuck: Contact Camp Kirby about scheduling our 2016 planning retreat. **[Done.]**

\* Long-Term Site Search Committee: Research buying property for camp, hooking up utilities, etc. Put together a proposal for the Board. **[Done. Lou has a document in Google Drive containing his research. Questions for the Board to consider: Where do we want to locate, WA or OR? How will we fund it? Chuck suggests that finding a property should be the last thing we do, that we should first get our dream together. Lou suggests that we plan our camp based on whatever property we can get. Chuck says we should have a phone meeting next week to talk about this. Phil has insight into land situations, pointing out that land is cheap in Skagit Valley. Phil will keep us informed.]**

\* Lou: Put together proposal for implementing Agile programming. Create a walkthrough. **[Done, shared with Board online.]**

\* Phil: Finish compiling Licensing Agreement feedback and forward feedback to the board and directly to Chuck. **[Done.]**

\* Chuck: Will compile feedback about the licensing agreement and forward to national. **[Done.]**

\* Chuck: Research ACA vaccination standards. Communicate to staffing and registration committees. Chuck will also compose a blog post. **[Done. We're using ACA standards.]**

\* Lou: Finalize and publicize application. **[Done.]**

\* Mike: Put out a call to join the Programming Committee. **[Done.]**

\* Chuck met with Humanists of Greater Portland, mostly as a fundraiser. Chuck talked to them about Camp Quest NorthWest. He has put together a good presentation and will continue to refine it.

\* Lou proposed that we form a general health committee, chaired by Paul Mopps. The Board unanimously agreed. Responsibilities of the Health Committee include creating:

- \* Recommendations for staff and camper vaccinations
- \* Policy for mental health of staff
- \* Procedure for managing mental health of campers (how to handle outbursts, emotional escalations, etc.)
- \* Recommendations for CPR/First Aid/AED training
- \* Training material for Staff on handling medical issues.

\* Lou asked: Why aren't we ACA accredited, and is this something we can pursue? The reason is because it's a significant amount of work/hours. Won't have an immediate benefit to justify the hours. Something to think about for later. Might become more feasible if we hire a part-time employee.

\* Chuck recommends: Committees should have at least a phone meeting between board meetings.

## **Programming Committee:**

\* Committee Chair: Michael Warbington

### **\* Planning Retreat: March 18 – 20, 2016 at Camp Kirby**

#### **\* Goals & Objectives**

\* Staff & Community-focused goals:

1. MISSION: Introduce and Review Mission and Purpose of CQNW.
2. TOGETHERNESS: Promote togetherness and a sense of community amongst volunteers. Encourage staff bonding and team building.
3. SCHMOOZE: Provide opportunity for new prospective staff and experienced staff/leadership to get to know each other.

\* Programming-focused goals:

4. IDEA DUMP: Provide a platform for participants to share ideas.
5. AM PROGRAMS: Develop morning programming focused on chosen theme.
6. PM PROGRAMS: Develop afternoon choice activities focused on chosen theme.
7. LT PROGRAMS: Develop afternoon LT activities.
8. ALL-CAMP PROGRAMS: Develop all-camp evening activities focused on chosen theme.
9. SKITS: Develop skit prompts focused on chosen theme.
10. PODS: Develop pod names linked to theme.
11. SIGNATURE PROGRAMS: Incorporate the six CQ Signature Programs at camp.
  - \* Invisible Creature Challenge
  - \* Socrates Cafe
  - \* World Religions
  - \* Moment of Science
  - \* Team Critical Thinking Challenge Skits
  - \* Famous Freethinkers

\* Specific Ideas:

1. Assign "homework" prior to retreat in the form of a questionnaire. Allow time Friday night to distribute and complete this assignment. This will help inform planning. Example questions:
  - a. What is one activity or event from a previous CQNW that you would like to see again?
  - b. What is one activity or event that you remember from your childhood or other adult camp experience that you would like to see introduced at CQNW.

2. Introduce the theme prior to the retreat, and review the theme Friday night to allow people to ruminate and develop ideas based on the theme.
3. Incorporate all volunteers in planning LT activities. Do not segregate individuals who identify themselves as interested or uninterested.

\* Specific Concerns from Mike:

1. Has Camp Kirby been reserved for the dates that we have announced? (Friday March 18th to Sunday March 20th.) **Yes.**
2. At Camp Kirby we will be responsible for cooking our own meals.
  - a. This can be a time consuming task that occupies volunteers during ideal programming time. Is there a volunteer present who would volunteer to coordinate and oversee meals? **Phil volunteered himself – he has a food-handling license and is able to cook large quantities of food quickly.**
  - b. There is a possibility that some volunteers contracted food poisoning at the 2014 retreat from meals cooked by CQNW volunteers. We must place an emphasis on safe food handling, storage and cleanliness.
3. I have corresponded with Lou about the possibility of adding planning retreat registration to Active. Can this be rolled out as soon as possible?
4. Get a definitive bunk count for the purpose of knowing exactly how many bunks are available to be filled.

\* We need a retreat RSVP count to coordinate food and bunks.

\* Get a definitive bunk count while we're at the retreat.

## 2016 Camp Theme:

\* Michael and Kayla put together ideas about a theme. The description:

“Camp Quest NorthWest’s School of Wisdom and Wonder”

CQNW campers will attend an outdoor “school” reminiscent of a particular wizard academy, with the twist being that instead of a focus on the supernatural, the school will focus on scientific and rational explanations for the strange and wondrous world around us.

Each camper will receive a welcome letter that invites them to “Camp Quest NorthWest’s School of Wisdom and Wonder” containing a list of required personal items and instructions to arrive at "Platform  $\sqrt{-1}$ " at the designated time.

During the first day’s all camp event, campers will be sorted into one of five “houses” (or pod groups). The houses will be named for famous freethinkers, each representing a distinct scientific discipline or philosophical school of thought, and symbolized by an animal associated with that individual in some way. (For example: House Hawking, named for theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, represented by the Hawk; House Darwin, named for natural historian Charles Darwin, represented by the Beagle.) Each house will have a unique crest featuring the name of the house and the animal symbol, and the camp will have a crest that combines the symbolic elements of all five houses.

The campers’ badges will feature their house crests, and the camp tee shirt will include a thematic design incorporating all five houses. Throughout the week, campers will earn points for their house by competing in a variety of competitions (all camp events), obtaining personal achievements (climbing the rock wall, kayaking to the point and back, etc.), and completing good deeds (such as kindly reminding members of other houses when they may have misplaced their badge).

Throughout the week the campers will attend a variety of interactive and instructional activities incorporating the theme. This will be largely dependent on the participation and ideas of our volunteers, but

possible topics could include a “Potions” class incorporating chemistry, a “Paranormal Investigations” class focusing on examining claims of the supernatural, and other activities involving extraordinary phenomena with rational explanations.

\* The Board is excited about the theme and discussed additional ways to make it creative and engaging.

### **Long-Term Site Search Committee:**

\* Committee Chair: Lou Amadio.

\* Lou shared his research so far and a list of ideal requirements for a permanent CQNW site. Details are available in Google Drive.

### **Short-Term Site Search Committee:**

\* Committee Chair: Natalie Bornfleth.

\* Research has already been started and is available on Google Drive. Natalie will get info and continue research.

\* Try to get Oregon 4-H, if possible. Make sure it doesn't interfere with school schedules.

\* Natalie will look at camps in her area.

### **Registration and Staffing Committee:**

\* Committee Chair: Lou Amadio.

\* Everything has been moved over to Active. Lou put together an aggregation of all the registration data. He updated the Board on progress.

\* Thanks to Lou, our Google Adwords campaign is in a primary location – number one spot on a lot of key searches.

\* Camp registration filled within 6 hours of the opening day. Currently 41 on waitlist. Still need more staff.

\* LT's get a separate waiver in addition to application.

\* Inform nurse about mental/physical conditions ahead of time so he can prepare for it. Would also help with proper staff training.

\* Mental health: We'd like to have a professional on staff. Perhaps a psych student if none are available?

\* On the application, Lou would like to have specific questions to ask about staff's mental health.

### **Budget:**

\* Note about treasury: There have been fraudulent charges to the CQNW account. Problem is getting resolved.

\* Chuck put together the proposed budget, which he shared with the Board. The 2016 projected numbers are based on a realistic assessment of what we spent last year, where “realistic” takes into account any changes specific to this year. He built in a lot more accountability.

\* Running budget neutral. Need to raise tuition in order to work on maintaining camp growth and eventually securing a permanent location.

\* The Board agrees that we should *not* use early-bird discount next year, since everyone will get it from now on.

Vote:

\* Michael made a motion to accept the 2016 budget as is. Bridget seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Leadership Summit:**

\* Good opportunity to learn from other camps, share ideas, get to know other CQ leaders.

\* Michael will be on a panel this year, and Chuck will be giving a presentation.

\* Submit financial aid requests to the Board.

**Seattle Atheists Darwin Day:**

\* SA was having trouble finding a location. They still need to finalize the date and location.

\* What will be CQNW's involvement?

\* The Board agrees to spread the word about the event, put out a call for volunteers, make a presence. We can set up a table, focusing on fundraising and staff. Don't have the bandwidth for more involvement this year.

**Camp Dates:**

August 14 – 20, 2016

**Next Board Meeting:**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:30pm**

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

**End time:** 9:08 pm