

Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes

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

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:30pm

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Treasurer – Michael Warbington

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Members at Large – Phil Cole, Paul Mopps, Natalie Bornfleth (via Google Hangout)

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

Action Items:

- * Brian: Work on t-shirt and badge designs.
- * Chuck: Research what it would cost to rent a jet to CQW for 40 people.
- * Phil and Lou: Compose and send an email encouraging potential staff to apply.
- * Michael: Suggest to Kathy our thoughts about giving 2017 registration priority to waitlisted campers.
- * Michael: Put together proposal to explain the benefits of buying the ACA accreditation book.
- * Chuck and Michael: Get Michael access to the bank account.
- * Meg: Look into youth mental health training. Post information and links.

Meeting Minutes:

Start time: 7:05pm

* Chuck moved to accept the January minutes without a public reading. Phil seconded. The Board accepted the minutes unanimously.

Badge and T-shirt Design:

- * Theme description: “Camp Quest NorthWest’s School of Wisdom and Wonder”
- * Crest with different houses in it. Animals native to the Pacific Northwest.
- * Michael passed around a sketch of the crest that he’s been working on.
- * Brian will lead the design efforts and will work with Michael.
- * Socrates Cafe idea: Discuss color associations. Pink is typically associated with girls, and blue with boys. Why is blue a more acceptable gender-neutral color than pink?

CQ Leadership Summit Review:

- * CQNW was one of the best represented groups.
- * Everyone agrees that it was a useful experience. Good ideas and networking.

* Phil was interested in how to prevent volunteers from not coming back. Got good advice. Basically, make it more fun for volunteers, and easier for the volunteers. Allow them opportunities to take part in activities, or breaks when they need them. The Board discussed different options for allowing/making staff and counselors take necessary breaks.

* Michael: They talked about ACA (American Camp Association) accreditation at the summit. There may be more benefits than we previously realized to getting the accreditation. The accreditation process dictates that we *have* a policy for these different scenarios, not that we adhere to specific policies that they set up for us. Most of the fee goes toward paying someone to evaluate the camp. While it's a lot of work to create these policies, this could help us in the future for all sorts of scenarios. We had a challenging HR situation last year, and it would have helped to already have had procedures in place for something like this. Also, donors will see this accreditation and feel better about supporting us.

* Bus to Camp Quest West: Chuck explained that there's an opportunity from CQW to take 30 of our campers for one of their sessions. Our campers would have to pay the CQW price, which is \$150 more than our tuition, plus dividing the cost of a charter bus among the campers. We'd need to send 10 volunteers on the bus.

* The hardest part would be getting the volunteers.

* Another possibility is to rent a jet. Chuck will look into this.

Programming Committee:

* Michael has composed a Planning Retreat schedule and shared it with the Board. Available on Google Drive. Retreat dates: March 18-20.

* Discuss carpooling on the Facebook event.

* Meg Colburn is mental health first aid certified. She points out that there's a grant from North Sound Mental Health Association that makes it much more affordable for people to get certified. \$15 per person. Two classes are available in Everett: April 12 (8am – 5pm) and June 3 (8am – 5pm). Meg will get more information about how to register. Also, CQNW has \$500 budgeted for training reimbursements. Amanda mentioned that we write up a report about how the training would benefit camps. There was recently an article in the Atlantic about this topic: <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/02/mental-health-first-aid/462414/>

* Camp idea: Where's Waldo?

Staffing Committee:

* Lou would like a field on the application to see that asks how they found out about us. See the effectiveness of various recruiting vectors.

* 28 applicants so far – 10 female staff, 15 male staff. 4 applicants waiting for interviews.

* Lou put together a list of people we want to reach out to.

* Phil will go to Sunday Assembly to try to recruit volunteers for the retreat and camp session.

Registration Committee:

* Camper registration is full and there's a growing waitlist.

* For the Board's consideration: Give priority to waitlisted campers for 2017. Open registration to them a week early. Get Kathy's opinion about this idea.

Camp Tuition Pricing:

* CQNW has one of the lowest priced tuition rates. Currently, from a financial perspective, we barely break even. This is especially true when we consider that every single camper got the early-bird discount.

* If we increased our price, we could work toward ACA accreditation, perhaps employ a part-time employee, grow the organization.

* Argument: We should only raise tuition if we have a concrete goal in mind for the money.

* This is also a reason to do fundraising. It should be for specific goals.

* Michael: Book for ACA accreditation costs \$80. He'd like to get it.

Vote to give Michael Warbington access to bank account:

* Chuck made a motion to add Michael Warbington, the Treasurer, to the CQNW bank account. Phil seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Camp Dates:

August 14 – 20, 2016

Next Board Meeting:

Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2016, during the Camp Kirby Planning Retreat. Will depend on how many Board members are able to attend on Sunday.

End time: 9:08 pm