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www.SeattleAtheists.org

Seattle Atheists Board Meeting
June 13, 2010

Chairing meeting:

Paul Case, President

In attendance:

Amanda Banerji, Vice President
Jerry Schiffelbein, Treasurer
Becky Friedman, Secretary
Mike Gillis, Member at Large
Sam Mulvey, Member at Large
Randy Rumley, Member at Large
Jami Blackann, general member
David Gutierrez, general member

Treasurer's report:

Seattle Atheists' budget was reported to be in the black by \$794. It was suggested that we send renewal notices to lapsed members ASAP. Jerry said that there are: 170 members in good standing, 39 members who are lapsed, 49 members who are lapsed by more than 6 months, and 18 who are lapsed by more than 12 months. For 2010, there are 28 new members, 26 renewals, and one lifetime membership.

ACTION: Paul and Jerry were tasked with completing the membership renewal letter, which is overdue.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Domains

The Seattleatheists.org was in danger of expiring. The domain was renewed and moved, and was currently in the 5-day transfer period. Sam requested help, and stated that the transfer would result in some administrative reorganization. All Board members and existing members will have their accounts preserved. Sam will assist Amanda in transferring the additional domains purchased as a stopgap measure in case we lost the domain. There will be an \$8 fee to transfer ownership of each. Jami stated that the domain purchases needed to happen anyway.

2. Membership meeting time change

A new meeting time of 5 p.m. worked well, encouraged socializing and member networking. The addition of refreshments was positively received. It was asked if charging for admission would offset the cost of the venue, with the benefit that we would be able to solicit for members. Non-library locations were discussed, and found to cost about \$175 for the meetings. Asking for donations (passing the plate) was determined to be too reminiscent of church. It was asked if charging for meetings would result in a decrease in income or membership. It was pointed out that value is added with food and improved speakers, and those improvements are worth it. Case discussed location options, including the Seattle Art Museum non-profit room, SPU non-profit room, and the Miller community center. It was determined that the Events committee

should facilitate communication and assignment of catering duties. It was determined that, if after one or two membership meetings, there is a decrease in revenue or attendance, we will return to using libraries

3. Committee budgets

It was determined that Paul, Jerry, and Amanda will meet in early July to finalize the past-due budget, and that they will assign budgets to the committees.

4. Tree of knowledge

Jerry announced that the tree of knowledge permit has been approved, and that the event is scheduled for December in Olympia on the Capitol lawn. Again, a boilerplate disclaimer must be prominently visible, as it was last year. Jerry discussed procuring laminator. It was determined that he will purchase a new or used laminator. A \$200 expenditure was approved by consensus. Using book covers was discussed and considered fair use, since it's an art installation. It would consist of color photocopies of the book covers. The type of tree was discussed, and it was determined that a real tree was favored over an artificial tree.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Events:

Fremont Fair and Solstice Parade: It was determined that Paul will pick up U-Haul at 7 a.m., and proceed to pick up the FSM, which will be dropped off at the fair grounds by 8:30 am. Paul will notify Eliza. Becky will assist, and shadow for Pride. David reported that he has obtained a Fremont Solstice Parade press pass.

PrideFest: Jerry reported that he would reserve the U-Haul. Amanda suggested Pride-specific flyers for the Pride parade, and volunteered to create them.

Booth sitters: It was emphasized that someone should always remain with the table, and that shift workers should overlap adequately. Randy announced that he had created a new display for the stickers and emblems.

2. Education:

Ranjan reported via Amanda that the Education Committee has produced a new brochure, called Atheism 101, for the fair season.

3. Outreach:

Amanda and Mike agreed to meet to brainstorm bus ad slogans. Sam announced that it was a goal to announce a list of upcoming events on the Ask An Atheist TV show each week. Mike said that he will ask Anu Garg if he would be willing to take the reins of the outreach committee.

4. IT committee:

Sam discussed security for web and email servers. He remarked that politically interesting content becomes a hacking target, and explained his security assurances and possible risks. Backups are done weekly. He reported that he has obtained SSL certification, which will allow us to take part in e-commerce. Sam remarked that he still needs a committee, organizational assistance, and would like Ranjan's assistance. He reports that there are no proactive actions currently, but would like to move forward.

Amanda asked about a solution for adding non-member volunteer to committee email lists. Sam reported that that was already possible.

Sam remarked that there was no reason for the announcement list to remain on Yahoo!, and that the forum is low-traffic and non-productive. He is exploring forum options for the “non-argumentative online community,” and asked for input, saying that it seems to get in the way of our objectives. Sam suggested transition away from the Yahoo! Groups forum.

Amanda reported Seattle Atheists Facebook issues. Alexia was over-posting, and her access was subsequently restricted. It was determined that restriction of access is at the sole discretion of administrators, Jami and Amanda.

5. Member Relations:

Nothing to report.

Amanda reported that there had been a few inquiries into a GLBT sub-group. Becky suggested working on a Spanish version of website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. May membership meeting update:

Amanda asked if Dr. Barash had been sent a thank-you note. Paul agreed to make sure it got done. Board remarked that the newly-implemented ideas were highly successful (refreshments, double-booking speakers). Sam reported that he would assist Jerry with acquiring a new PA system by checking CraigsList and pawn shops.

2. Trademark Seattle Atheists

Amanda suggested trademarking Seattle Atheists so that we could acquire the SeattleAtheists.com site, on which someone is parked. It was determined that if Seattle Atheists is trademarked, we can make a case that seattleatheists.com should be granted to our organization. Traffic to our site has increased, and protection of our digital assets is strategically important. It was suggested that we seek pro bono legal counsel to assist with trademark registration.

3. 4th of July Picnic

The Ask an Atheist crew will in attendance. Paul will run games with prizes. He reported that there will be kites, and frisbees. Amanda and Ranjan will create a trivia contest.

4. T-shirt design contest

Amanda proposed a T-shirt design contest, to be posted on the website.

NEXT MEETING

The next membership meeting will be held on July 18.

The next board meeting will be held on August 18.