

**Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Board Meeting**  
**August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

*Summary of action items follows meeting notes*

*Time and Date:* Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7:00 PM

*Location:* Private Residence of Jerry Schiffelbein and Tiffany Greenleaf

*Board members present to form a quorum at the beginning of the meeting:*

MD - Marcus Dunavan – President

WB - Wendy Britton – Vice President

MS - Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

JS – Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

TG – Tiffany Greenleaf – Member at large

KH - Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

GH – Gloria Hariharan – Alternate member at large

RR – Randy Rumley – Alternate member at large

8 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

JS gave the financial report. We currently have 33 members, and a balance of \$917.39. Renewals are still needed for some members. JS will continue to notify them.

Since we are being charged monthly fees on our bank account, JS will open an account at WAMU (to confirm there are no fees) and transfer our funds to this account.

WB suggests putting Paypal on the website to accept donations. KH will look into it.

JS will send MD the contact information to check on not-for-profit status, and also ask about getting a “pending” number.

WB reported that someone wants to donate funds to get more speakers.

MD proposed a motion to create a separate “Speakers Fund”. A vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0. JS will include this category in the budget.

A discussion was held about whether Lifetime Membership dues should be allowed to be designated for certain purposes or directed into specific funds.

MD proposed a motion: Our policy is that all Lifetime Membership dues will go to the general fund like other dues. A vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

There was a question about who is “first alternate” and who is “second alternate”. After reviewing the prior election minutes, and a brief discussion, it was decided that RR is the first alternate and GH is the second alternate, for the remainder of this term.

MD reviewed the goal list, noting items that have been accomplished or not this year. Some items were discussed further, as noted below.

T-Shirts – we have about 11-15 left, mostly size L and XL. We should wear them to Ellen Johnson, and try to finish selling this batch.

Affiliations – Discussed some pros and cons of affiliating with American Atheists and/or Atheist Alliance. Other possible groups could be FFRF (GH to look into) and Americans United (MD to check).

A motion was made by MD that any decision to officially affiliate with another group would need to be approved by the same process as a merge or dissolution of the group (Article 6.2 of the Bylaws). This includes a ballot sent by mail to all members 30 days before the vote, which also contains a list of pros and cons of affiliation. We would affiliate only if at least 70% of members vote to affiliate.

An Amendment was made to the motion that we would send initial invitation to vote via email, with all affiliation info. Then we would mail information to anyone that hasn't responded within a week

A vote was taken and the motion passed 7-1.

MD and MS to meet and write affiliation ballot and information.

Eastside Atheist Meetup – Discussion about if it's worth funding the meetup to keep it going.

MD proposed a motion: If we are able to negotiate a \$10/month fee (instead of the \$19/month), then we will fund Meetups for the next 3 months. At that time, we will assess the amount of donations brought in, and the number of paid members that found us through Meetup, and decide whether or not to continue funding future Meetups. A Meetup "Ambassador" will be appointed by the president, and GH was appointed.

MS will add a field on the brochure that asks how the applicant heard about us (i.e. Meetup), and provide the "ambassador" with lots of brochures for Meetup attendees.

A vote was taken on the motion and it passed 4-3.

MD reviewed the goals that have not been completed, including...

Special recognition of 1) a local organization and 2) a member.

- Executive Board (4 officers) will act as committee to determine the recipients.
- The board members will nominate organizations and members.
- The awards will be announced/presented at the September meeting.

GH gave a Picnic debrief:

Overall it was a smashing success. There is about \$15 left from the funds collected. ECS possibly needs this for the kids' supplies, otherwise it will go back to H.O.W. for their extra efforts. GH to summarize the accounting and send to JS, with any treasury requests if needed. MD requested that GH write up Picnic report and recommendations, and then email him to review for future events (include suggestions like: encourage more mingling, and list the door prizes).

Ellen Johnson prep:

- Wendy organizing a restaurant gathering after the presentation.
- A reporter from Beliefnet.com, a news agency, interviewed MD about Ellen's presentation.
- KH will create a sign-in sheet, with a checkbox to get more information about SA.
- TG will confirm with PI about bringing a video camera.
- We should all be there between 1-1:30, wearing SA t-shirts.
- MD and TG will bring cups and drinks.

Elections Planning:

- MD reviewed election rules [3.5]
- MS to create elections webpage to list nominations and candidate statements, and change front page to direct people to the elections page.
- There was a discussion about changing the board terms from 1 year to 2 years, or to shift to a "tiered" system. There was some support of the ideas but it would not be possible to make these changes in time for this election. So these ideas were put off until next year's election.
- MS will update the calendars and announce the election in an email and on the website.

Intergroup meeting:

- At the picnic, people from several groups met and discussed collaborating again for future events. MD proposed that WB and GH attend the next "intergroup" meeting as representatives of SA.
- There was much discussion about who should attend the meeting, and a vote was held to decide which 2 of 3 persons interested would attend: GH, WB, or KH. WB and GH were nominated unanimously to attend.
- GH will decide later if she wants to go, and then notify MD of her decision.

Website miscellaneous:

- MD to email MS picnic pictures.
- TG and MD will submit book reviews for the website. A 2-week deadline was given.
- MD to write code for viewing access logs, and also to fix log if needed. A 1-month deadline was given.

A motion was proposed to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Meeting adjourned.

***Summary of Action Items:***

- JS to continue notifying members of their membership renewal.
- JS will open an account at WAMU (after confirming there are no fees)
- KH will look into using Paypal on the website.
- MD will contact IRS about 501(c)3 status.
- MS to update brochure with “Speakers Fund” and “how did you hear about us?”
- MD and MS will coordinate to write up affiliation ballot and info.
- GH to report back about potential Meetup continuance.
- All board members to nominate local groups and members for award recognition.
- GH to write Picnic wrap-up for MD and summarize expenses/funds for JS.
- KH, TG, PI, and MD have various prep duties for Ellen Johnson presentation.
- MS will create election webpage, update calendars, and send email announcement.
- GH will report decision to MD about attending intergroup meeting.
- MD to email picnic pictures to MS.
- TG and MD to write book reviews (within 2 weeks)
- MD to write code for website access log (within 1 month)