

**Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Board Meeting**  
**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

*Summary of action items follows meeting notes*

*Time and Date:* Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7:00 PM

*Location:* Bellevue Library

*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

KH - Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

PI – Pat Inniss – Member at large

RR – Randy Rumley – Alternate member at large

Other members:

Kelvin

7 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

**T-shirts:**

- KH reported that the shirts will cost approximately \$7/each, plus about \$20 setup fee. There was a proposal that we will order 30 shirts (11 have been “pre-ordered” on a signup sheet). The proposal was voted on and passed 6-0.
- Pricing was discussed, and \$10-\$15 was agreed to be an appropriate range, to be finalized later. Perhaps \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.
- KH will get invoice or cost quote, and then get a check from Jerry.
- Shirts are expected to be done in a few weeks.

**Garrison-Martineau:**

- MS reported on status. We currently have one contact with a church, and will find out more information when the pastor gets back in town next week.
- MS has collected names of those interested in being a facilitator. Chris Lindstrom at G-M headquarters was notified and there will be a phone training session set up soon.
- It was suggested that MS send out an email to all members, to see who is interested in participating.
- Potential venues were suggested, including the Roosevelt branch library and the Bellevue library, which both have large rooms. MS to check availability of these and other libraries in the area that have adequate facilities.
- We have up to three video cameras available to us from PI, Kelvin, and RR.

**Agenda for next general meeting:**

- Potential Speakers:
  - Professors (UW Philosophy department)
  - Local Authors

Mike Newdow (WB to contact)

Ellen Johnson (WB to contact)

Ron Reagan (PI to contact)

Everett guy who was kicked out of boy scouts (RR to contact)

Jesse Card (MD to contact)

- Need to heavily advertise the speaker to get big member and public turnout.
- Discuss national affiliation (American Atheists, Atheist Alliance, Humanists?)

### **Continue discussing Issues from last meeting:**

3. How we decide to pursue activities/affiliations (Habitat for Humanity, Mercy Corps)

#### *Idea Brainstorm:*

- Board makes final decision
- Allow members to vote on decision
- Specify/clarify “only investigating” not committing to activity/affiliation
- Designate a “request for comments” period
- Specify it’s connection to a specific Seattle Atheist goal (i.e. Outreach)
- Specify/create “member-sponsored only” status for certain activities
- Need to provide meeting agendas at least 1 week before meeting.

#### *Discussion:*

WB suggested allowing at least 1 meeting available for members to give feedback, but keep in mind timeliness of certain activities.

RR recommended announcing “we’re investigating” an item, to allow for feedback.

Kelvin suggested announcing a “comments period”

MD moved to bring the following proposal to vote at the next meeting:

- Amend the bylaws to require that agendas be provided to all members, for all meetings, at least one week in advance of the meeting.
- The vote will be taken at the next general meeting, but only board members will be voting on it.

A vote was taken on this motion, and it passed 6-0. The proposal will be brought up at the March meeting.

The following Problem Statement was resolved with the passing of the above motion.

5. Member complaints about lack of advanced meeting notifications.

MD made a motion to create a committee to develop guidelines for how Seattle Atheists will officially sponsor activities or affiliations. The committee will be appointed by MD and will continue discussing these issues. The motion was passed 6-0.

1. Management of Yahoo email list (continued)

Committee reported their findings as **Proposal 1:**

- First Yahoo list “*SeattleAtheistsEvents*”  
Only paid members and representatives from other organizations can post events on the calendar and messages on the discussion board.  
RSVPs can be done in poll feature.  
No posting “over” another event on the calendar  
Anyone can join the group (but not post)
- Second Yahoo list “*SeattleAtheistsForum*”  
This is the “main list”  
Anyone can join  
Virtually unmoderated (except spam, trolls, etc.)
- No members-only Yahoo list  
It would be nice to have a way for members to communicate and vote, but we won’t get 100% signed up on Yahoo. And it wouldn’t be fair unless we got 100%.  
Better to just have an email list.
- Possible “*SeattleAtheistsPotpourri*”  
For non-atheism related discussion (politics, science, etc.)

*Discussion of Proposal 1:*

MD read email from GH in her absence. There was general agreement about the ideas, especially the information to send to list members.

Kelvin discussed his support for keeping the existing Yahoo structure. The friendly community of the existing group serves a unique purpose that would disappear if the groups were reorganized as in Proposal 1.

A motion was made to vote on Proposal 1. The motion was approved 6-0.

A vote was taken on Proposal 1, and failed 1-5.

A vote was taken to keep the existing basic structure of the Yahoo groups, and passed with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstain.

6. Moderation Issues (continued)

(3. Perception of members being ignored by the board, was accepted to be included in this item also, since this problem seems to be primarily related to moderation of the Yahoo list)

*Idea Brainstorm:*

- Send rules to new and current members (GH’s email a good start)
- 4 board members to moderate list.
- 1 appointed moderator
- 1 elected moderator
- When a rule is broken, we send a warning 1<sup>st</sup>, apply a 2-week moderation 2<sup>nd</sup>, and remove the member on the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense.

- Instruct members to contact moderator/board if they see something inappropriate on the list.
- Periodic (bi-monthly) reminder of rules on calendar.
- Put rules on main page (group description)

*Proposals:*

### **Proposal 2**

- Send rules to new and current members
- Periodic (bi-monthly) reminder of rules on calendar.
- Put rules on main page (group description)

A vote was taken, and Proposal 2 passed 6-0.

### **Proposal 3:**

- The board will elect an interim moderator to moderate the Yahoo list until the full guidelines are developed.

A vote was taken, and Proposal 3 passed 6-0.

Nominations were taken for the interim moderator position. WB and MS were nominated. A vote was taken for WB, and failed 0-6. A vote was taken for MS and passed 6-0. MS reported that she intended to moderate extremely minimally, in light of the ongoing discussion about rules during this transition period.

MD proposed that the previously formed committee for the Yahoo group changes should develop the new rules for the groups. The proposal was approved 6-0.

There was a brief discussion about allegations of misconduct against members, and how that will be resolved. MD clarified that the constitution contains rules that must be interpreted by the board, and any requires 60% of the members to determine if a rule is violated. Concerns were expressed that we still have no clear guidelines for how to distinguish personal statements versus board statements, and also that there doesn't appear to be a time limit for when and how an allegation can be brought up. MD stated that nothing would happen unless a specific allegation is made.

MD moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion carried with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 1 abstain.

Meeting adjourned.

The following "Problem Statements" remain to be resolved:

2. Lack of a direct "public-to-board" communication

6. Relationships between board members
8. Guidelines for free speech vs. representative speech
10. Meetup name confusion

***Summary of Action Items:***

- KH to order T-shirts and get check from Jerry.
- MS email members about G-M participation.
- MS to coordinate phone training for G-M facilitators.
- WB to contact Mike Newdow and Ellen Johnson about speaking at a future meeting.
- PI to contact Ron Reagan about speaking at a future meeting.
- RR to contact Everett boy scout guy about speaking at a future meeting.
- MD to contact Jesse Card about speaking at a future meeting.
- MD to appoint committee to develop guidelines for how we officially sponsor activities or affiliations. Committee will then develop these guidelines and report back with a proposal.
- MS to act as interim moderator for the Yahoo group.