

SEATTLE ATHEISTS BOARD MEETING

11/01/2009 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Teleconference

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Paul Case, President (Chairing Meeting)
- Amanda Banerji, VP
- Jerry Schiffelbein, Treasurer
- Becky Friedman, Secretary
- Sam Mulvey, Member at Large
- Randy Rumley, Member at Large
- Wendy Britton, Member at Large
- Ranjan Banerji, General Member

ABSENT:

- Layton Sumpter, Member at Large

ITEM 1: MINUTES APPROVAL

OUTCOME: approved.

ITEM 2: Treasurer's Report

- We have just surpassed projected contributions estimate
- The Budget Committee Meeting is Wed., 12/02/09 7:00 PM at Paul's apartment
- Membership is up to 214

ITEM 3: NFA CONFERENCE

- Robert Sanford is the organizer
- Ranjan, Amanda, Jerry, and Sam are involved in planning
- Workshop themes "Reason-driven life", "Organization-building"
- Working on schedules
- Seattle Atheists contributions: participants, no workshop leading, but staffing registration table
- Jerry wants to sponsor members' registration (\$125/person)
- Ranjan suggests subsidizing a registration discount for all SA members
- OUTCOME: further discussion to happen at Budget Committee Meeting

ITEM 4: COMEDY FUNDRAISER WITH JEREMY WHITMAN/OPEN MIND NIGHT

- Exploratory state
- Jeremy is the best contact for knowing how to organize this
- OUTCOME: further discussion to happen at Budget Committee Meeting

ITEM 5: SEATTLE ATHEISTS GALA

- Washington Building ballroom = \$400/night
- Amanda has priced many venues around Seattle
- OUTCOME: undetermined.

ITEM 6: SEATTLE ATHEISTS SURVEY

- Purpose is demographic survey for the purpose of interacting with community and business, use as a marketing tool, make results into a press kit. Data is to be used in aggregate only, w/out identifying information on individuals
- Sam and Amanda want to go question-by-question to make sure it's ok at a further meeting
- \$200 copy rates
- Suggestion to put survey on a website or via email
- Point made that there are non-email members, older members that don't use email
- Privacy issues...is it anonymous?
- Membership survey release date: Before January 9, 2010

ITEM 7: SEATTLE ATHEISTS BUS ADS, ROUND 2

- Paul was contacted by Seattle Times; questions focused on schism between “old” and “new” atheists
- Some respondents viewed the messages as anti-religion, rather than pro-atheist
- Getting increased press in general
- Thanks all around
- Debut is Monday, 01/02/10, will run for 2 months on 45 busses

ITEM 8: SA FORUM VS. SA CALENDAR/EVENTS LIST

- Amanda closed posting on the calendar to members only
- Amanda updated the list

ITEM 9: GIFTWRAPPING

- Jerry confirmed 11/29 at Barnes and Noble in Lynnwood
- Case will call Megan 11/02 to check in with her regarding other confirmed dates
- Becky will update website with an announcement

ITEM 10: MEMBERSHIP TIERS

- Purpose of tiered membership: to establish different members of support (sustaining member, supporting member, lifetime member, etc.)
- Randy suggests we look into what other clubs/groups do
- Wendy suggests 3, 5, 10-year membership options
- Sam would like to see analysis on how it would change our yearly income; Ranjan explains it would change the org from a “cash-on-hand” to an “accrual” organization
- Amanda requests a proposed outline, Case will take this on for presentation at Board Meeting
- Will require a redesign brochure, Amanda volunteers
- OUTCOME: further discussion to happen at Budget Committee Meeting

ITEM 11: SCHEDULING BOARD RETREAT

- Will be done over email

ITEM 12: WENDY

- World Affairs Council brings internationals to discuss and learn about religious views
- Wendy was a representative contacted through American Atheists to help share about religious

- views in America
- Met with Afghani and Pakistani religious leaders

ITEM 13: PAUL AS GUEST SPEAKER

- Wed, 11/11, 10 am Paul will be a guest speaker at a senior center for monthly talk on religious views
- Invites any board members to join him

ITEM 14: BOARD-MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATION

- members should contact board member if they want to organize an event
- recognition that this is a social issue that will be only partially addressed by a technical solution (amanuensis)
- Becky will include this in monthly letter to general membership

ITEM 15: CABLE ACCESS COMMITTEE MTG RECAP

- Reviewed rules and regs, costs, and course requirements
- Producer can be an organization (\$300) or \$50/individual
- Sam M., Mike G., Jeremy W., and Casey D would be initial hosts and producers
- Hosts would also need to put in time as crew
- Sam suggests SA be overall producer, would defray costs, and would keep it kosher b/c the producer would be a Seattle-based entity
- Case wants to see a proof-of-concept to ensure its success before freeing up that money. Mike argues that it is worthwhile and people are committed.
- First producer class is this Saturday, 11/07/09.
- SCAN Committee will come up with document proposal
- MOTION: Amanda moves to allot \$50 per person to pay for 2 producers. Jerry seconds. Paul: yes. Amanda: yes. Becky: yes. Jerry: yes. Mike: yes. Wendy: yes. Randy: yes. Layton: Absent.
- OUTCOME: Seattle Atheists will give \$100 toward funding 2 producers.

ITEM 16: Atheists Speakers Bureau.

- Organize a list of speakers willing to speak to groups.
- This is a work in progress
- OUTCOME: topic tabled till Board Retreat

ITEM 17: MARC ADAMS JANUARY SPEAKER

- *This agenda item was discussed and voted on prior to the meeting via email.*
- Member Eliza Sutton arranged for Marc Adams to speak at the January membership meeting.
- MOTION: Becky moved to put to a vote changing the membership meeting date to January 10 to better fit with Marc's schedule, and to approve a \$200 honorarium for his engagement. Seconded: Wendy. Votes: Amanda: yes. Jerry: yes. Becky: yes. Mike: yes. Wendy: yes. Randy: yes. Paul: yes.
- OUTCOME: Marc Adams is invited to speak 01/10/10 Membership meeting, and will be granted a \$200 honorarium. Eliza is notified and we have yet to reserve a location.

ITEM 18: SEATTLE MARATHON WATER TABLE SUPPORT

- Needs website posting, publicity
- Becky will post to website, Wendy as point-of-contact
- Meetup organizers will post to their meetups

ITEM 19: DAWKINS RECAP

- Very happy event
- Press release to media outlets really helped boost attendance

ITEM 19: NEW PICS OF BOARD MEMBERS

- group photo at Gasworks or Ballard Park
- Indiv. Photos at retreat

ITEM 19: NWFC UPDATES

- Dec. 13 is Solstice Party
- Darwin Day is upcoming event, sponsored by SA (Randy will spearhead this). Feb 12. Case solicits opinion on whether we wanna keep it, whether interest is there. Wendy, Amanda, Becky, Sam express interest. Kirkland Juanita community center

ITEM 19: DEBAPTISM

- event for a membership meeting
- concern: have anti-religious overtones, membership meetings might get out-of-hand carnival-like atmosphere
- Often children baptized at early age, this would be an adult decision, an affirmation of non-religion. Rational re-evaluation of religious non-affiliation.
- Suggestion for holding it at a gala
- OUTCOME: tabled for further discussion

ITEM 20: MATCHING GIFTS 2009

- permission to plug matching gifts at membership mtg
- Wendy will send to SA yahoo groups listserv

ITEMS 21: CAPITOL DISPLAY

- Amanda and Jerry want a positive message display for the Capitol Lawn in Oly
- Permit needed.
- MOTION: Amanda moves to file for permit. Seconded by Sam. Votes: everyone yes, except Becky abstain.
- OUTCOME: SA will apply for a permit to place a holiday display on the Cap. Lawn.

ACTIONS:

- Update membership # announcement on website (Amanda)
- Send Jerry and Amanda combo for PO Box (Case)

- Contact Valerie Tarico regarding her membership preference (Jerry)
- Send Becky new members' info so she can maintain up-to-date list of membership
- Case call Megan re: giftwrap, and whether she wants to be contact person, else Becky will
- Case will send email about scheduling Board Retreat
- Bring up in the summer the possibility :World Affairs Council International Religious leaders Mtg (Aug or Sept)
- Becky will include this in quarterly letter to general membership
- Becky will resend Cable-Access Mtg. minutes to general board
- Becky will post wendy as point of contact for marathon stop on website
- Wendy will send note about matching gifts 2009 to SA yahoo groups listserv

UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS:

Sun 11/15/09, 2:00 PM, Membership Mtg (Greenlake Lib.)

Sun 11/29/09, 6:00 AM, Seattle Marathon, manning water stop table

Wed 12/09/09, 7:00 PM, Budget Committee Mtg. (Paul Case's apartment)

Sun 12/13/09, Solstice Party (location/time unknown at this time)