

**Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Board Meeting
October 26th, 2005**

Summary of action items follows meeting notes

Time and Date: Thursday, October 26th, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Location: Bellevue Regional Library.

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

MD - Marcus Dunavan – President

WB – Shelly Hoyt – Vice President

MS - Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

JS – Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

TG – Jen Lees – Member at large

KH - Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

RR – Randy Rumley – Member at large

GH – Shane Lees – Alternate member at large

Other members:

Tiffany G.

Kevin C.

10 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

Since this was the first board meeting with the new board, everyone gave brief introductions.

MD led the group in a brainstorming session for developing a 5-Year Vision. First, everyone broke into smaller groups to generate ideas, then the groups came together and all ideas were recorded. Since the items seemed to fall into common categories, a list of categories was devised and each idea was assigned to one or more categories. The categories were (with brief description):

Speaking Out (media, making our presence known)

Connections (to other groups, other people)

Advocacy (standing up for rights)

Activism (actively promote reason, etc., bring speakers)

Resources (our group's "assets")

A discussion of the categories and contents indicated that Advocacy and Activism are good ultimate goals, which require solid Resources to achieve. Speaking Out and Connections can be done without as much Resources, so these can be done as shorter-term activities.

After all ideas were recorded and categorized, we generated "enablers", specific steps that we could take to implement these goals.

The following list is the record of the 5-year Vision ideas generated at the meeting, in the category or categories in which they seemed to fall, followed by the *enablers*.

Speaking Out

Vision/Goal Ideas:

Greater presence

Be a media contact

Have a system to respond to media inaccuracies about atheism

Have multi-media advertisements

Organized volunteering (e.g. credit for hours)

Have literature, with wider dispersion

Specific Enablers:

Mainly needs effort, plus some money for printing

Ability to do press releases

Create “Press Kit” for all media outlets to kick off our media presence

Organize letter-writing campaigns

Can post meetings and events on newspaper’s calendar of events

Develop list of free/cheap advertising

Place ads in Secular Humanist Press

Literature: business cards, brochures

Literature distribution: libraries, cafés, colleges, and festivals

Ready-made booth and banner

Establish regular festival participation (develop list, schedules)

Connections

Vision/Goal Ideas:

Participation/collaboration with other groups (both national and local)

Have a discussion forum/bulletin board on our website

More involvement in national groups (e.g. conference attendance, hosting)

Have list/directory of atheist-friendly businesses

Recognize the efforts of other organizations, not necessarily atheistic-specific

Support those “coming out” or new to atheism

Specific Enablers:

Get contact list from “Intergroup”

Affiliations – decide which national group(s) to officially affiliate with

Support the formation and maintenance of the “Intergroup”, an informal collection of local non-theistic groups.

Forum/bulletin board on website – get info on options, and decide.

Develop atheist-friendly business list

Send members to national events/conferences

Recognize groups for their efforts and accomplishments

Advocacy

Vision/Goal Ideas:

Youth outreach (e.g. scholarships, essay contest, affiliation program in high school)
Resource for atheists that have experienced discrimination
Possibly consult/work with local ACLU

Specific Enablers:

School affiliation (need interested kids and advisor)
Sponsor a “Coming Out Day” for atheists
Connect with local ACLU
Legal Fund: support and find appropriate uses for the funds
Organize letter-writing campaigns
Obtain 501(c)3 for grant writing abilities

Activism

Vision/Goal Ideas:

More activism in general
Organized volunteering (e.g. credit for hours)
Be a media contact
Help an atheist get elected to office

Specific Enablers:

Appoint a volunteer/outreach coordinator(s)
Develop a system to quickly react, rally, or protest an issue or event (e.g. have signs, etc.)
Help to get an atheist elected, or prepare/encourage an atheist to run for office
Find out about setting up a scholarship
Support Speakers Fund
Obtain speakers
Write formal letters or statements to private groups expressing our position/views (e.g. to a church pastor who expressed inaccuracies/disparaging comments in the news)
Fast-track board approval of outreach activities
Organize letter-writing campaigns

Resources

Vision/Goal Ideas:

Have a building – possibly share with other groups (secular, humanist, etc.)
Have another income source (e.g. band, art showing, fundraisers, merchandising!)
Have list/directory of atheist-friendly businesses
Become a legal 501(c)3 non-profit
Have a discussion forum/bulletin board on our website
Grant-writing capabilities

Specific Enablers:

Build building fund

Designate a grant writer

Send a newsletter with donation envelope/solicitation

Distribute and collect an interest survey to members (on membership form, or web?)

Set up Paypal for online donations

MD suggests a board ‘retreat’ to formalize these goals. This will be held on Sunday, November 13th, at 10:00am, and will be a potluck brunch at the private residence of RR.

MS is to email the list of goals to MD and SH prior to the meeting.

Other Business

Treasurer’s report

JS gave a Treasurer’s report. We currently have 41 members, and an account balance of approximately \$1,610.

We still have not found a solution for avoiding monthly bank fees on our bank account. We need to either a) find a bank that doesn’t charge fees, b) find a bank that accepts our state non-profit registration for a no-fee account, or c) obtain a loan to get the balance over the minimum requirement to avoid the fee.

The following people volunteered to call a bank and inquire about 1) would they accept the state non-profit registration to avoid fees (we have an EIN), 2) what is the minimum balance to avoid monthly fees?

JL – S. Metropolitan Credit Union

MD – US Bank

SH – Key Bank

JS – Alaska Credit Union

Members will report back on or before the November 13th meeting.

Non-Profit Status Report

MD reported about the status of our 501(c)3 application. They have tentatively declined the application, and submitted several questions for us to respond to. They are summarized as follows:

1. list activities in more detail – MD completed
2. “socializing” would not be allowed in a non-profit group. MD responded with more explanation that socializing is through member-initiated activities only, and no funds go to this.

3., 4., 5. Pat no longer on the board. Need revised board info and signature. – MD has taken care of.

6. Submit copy of Articles of Incorporation that have been amended – **Need to do**

7. “Typo” in Article 5 – MD can fix, but will require resubmitting to state. Will cost \$20 plus \$20 “priority fee” to re-file. **MD will give all documents to KH to deliver to Olympia.**

8. Financials – Income statements needed for past years, and proposed for next 2 years. **SH to email form to JS to fill out, then JS will submit to MD.**

9. Need copy of website – MD completed

10. Need copy of everything we distribute or sell – MD completed.

Meeting adjourned.

Summary of Action Items:

- MS to email goal summary to MD and SH before Nov. 13th meeting
- JL, MD, SH, and JS to inquire about bank account at different banks
- SH to give income statement form to JS
- JS to fill out income statements and email to MD
- MD to give documents to KH
- KH to deliver all forms to Olympia to re-file