

**Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists “Emergency” Board Meeting
February 18th, 2005**

Summary of action items follows meeting notes

Time and Date: Friday, February 18th, 2005 at 7:00 PM

Location: Private Residence of Marcus Dunavan

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

MD - Marcus Dunavan – President

WB - Wendy Britton – Vice President

JS – Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

MS - Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

TG – Tiffany Greenleaf – Member at large

KH - Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

PI – Pat Inniss – Member at large

GH - Gloria Hariharan – Alternate member at large (arrived later)

RR – Randy Rumley – Alternate member at large

9 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

MD reviewed the meeting process. Parliamentary procedure will be used from now on for all meetings.

MD read section 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 of the Constitution, concerning the “provisions for abuse”. MD clarified that this meeting is for defining and brainstorming solutions to current problems, and that nothing related to constitutional “punishment” will be happening tonight.

We all brainstormed a list of issues or “problem statements” that we are currently dealing with. After they are recorded, solution ideas will be brainstormed, and then proposals will be considered for each one.

Problem Statements:

1. Management of Yahoo email list
 - event calendar
 - whether members should be moderated at all
2. Lack of a direct “public-to-board” communication
3. Perception of members being ignored by the board.
4. Moderation issues (Yahoo list)
5. Member complaints about lack of advanced meeting notifications.
6. Relationships between board members
 - defamation/slander
 - hurt feelings
 - speaking critically

- issuing apologies
- 7. How we decide to pursue activities/affiliations
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Mercy Corps
- 8. Guidelines for free speech vs. representative speech
- 9. Name confusion (Yahoo vs. org)
 - Use of “seattleatheists.org”
- 10. Meetup name confusion
- 11. Parliamentary procedure (resolved by MD at the beginning of this meeting)

Solutions Brainstorming:

1. Management of Yahoo email list
 - Add additional member of board as moderators on Yahoo
 - Put under official ownership by Seattle Atheists
 - Guidelines for moderators
 - Create separate Calendar of Events
 - Eliminate Yahoo and use bulletin board instead (on website)
 - Eliminate Yahoo and use email “majordomo” list instead
 - Rename current Yahoo list
 - Change guidelines for moderators and messages (to what? And how?)
 - Create 4 lists: Calendar, Forum, members-only, and board-only.

A motion was made to include other Yahoo-related problem statements in this solutions brainstorming session (#s 2, 4 and 9). The vote on the motion was taken, and it passed 7-0.

2. Lack of a direct “public-to-board” communication
 - Announce public meetings on appropriate list(s), and make clear who to contact (make a ...@seattleatheists.org email address)
4. Moderation issues (Yahoo list)
 - Provide at least one (affiliated) list that is open and unmoderated (with reasonable and minimal exceptions to be determined later) to allow for feedback/critique about Seattle Atheists.
 - Adhere to unmoderated status (with exceptions) on all lists.
 - Board be made aware of any person’s moderation.
 - Use a succinct, standard reply for those posts that are deemed inappropriate.
9. Name confusion (Yahoo vs. org)
 - Make it clear on the list(s) that the list is being controlled by members of the Seattle Atheists organization.

A motion was made to end solutions brainstorming for this session and proceed to hearing proposals. The motion was passed 7-0.

Proposal 1:

The ownership of existing Yahoo group (seattleatheists) to be transferred to the board.

Discussion: Wendy's concern is that she created the Yahoo list and wants to be assured some kind of future say in what happens to it. She agreed to the stipulation described in the following amendment:

Amendment 1 – Upon relinquishing control of the Yahoo list, Wendy will be offered a new position of “honorary recognition”. This will be a permanent position, and she will also be allowed to be a member of the Seattle Atheists Yahoo group on a permanent basis. She will be subject to the same rules as any other Seattle Atheists member, and any other Yahoo group member.

Amendment 1 was voted on, and passed with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 2 abstains.

Amendment 2 – The Yahoo group privileges described Amendment 1 would be applicable to all Seattle Atheists-owned Yahoo groups.

Amendment 2 was voted on and approved with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 2 abstains.

Amendment 3 – We will bring to a vote at the next meeting: “Wendy’s honorary recognition position as “Founder” will be a permanent, non-voting, board position, and will be subject to all normal board member rules.”

Amendment 3 was voted on and approved with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 2 abstains.

Proposal 1 was voted on and approved with 5 yays, 0 nays, and 2 abstains.

MD made a motion to table the remaining issues to be discussed at the next board meeting. The motion was voted on and approved 7-0.

MD made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned.