

## Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Meeting August 24th, 2006

*Summary of action items follows meeting notes*

*Time and Date:* Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7:00 PM

*Location:* Private residence of Randy Rumley

*Board members present at the meeting:*

Marcus Dunavan – President

Shellie Brighton – Vice President

Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

Jen Lees – Member at large

Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

Randy Rumley – Member at large

Wendy Britton – Alternate member at large

Shane Lees – Alternate member at large

9 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

Megan announced that the KUOW Fall pledge drive will be held in October. Shellie volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator, since Megan will be out of town. She will try to schedule a shift for Sunday, Oct. 8th.

Treasurers Report – Jerry reported that we have 55 members, and have an account balance of \$1,763.

Jerry noted that Mike Newdow had not yet cashed his check for travel expenses. Wendy will contact him.

Jerry and Marcus reported about the meeting of the NW Freethought Coalition that they attended. (previously referred to as 'intergroup' formed at the first 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic). Discussed the purpose and possible activities of the group. At this point, exists just as a way to coordinate with the different organizations for events such as the picnic, and possibly Solstice events and Darwin day.

HNPS obtained a few episodes of the Dawkins' series “Root of all evil”, and would like to set up a showing after a small group watches it.

Seattle and Eastside chapters of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. – chapters getting started up now.

Peace arch picnic was held on Aug. 20th. – Marcus went – about 20 people attended. The Victoria group wants a t-shirt. Kyle will coordinate with Marcus to send them one. A group in Toronto obtained a building (Toronto Freethought Center), which has dramatically increased their membership.

Marcus reported that Richard Dawkins will be in town for a book signing for new upcoming book "The God Delusion". The University Book Store asked if we would like to 'host' his visit on October 26th. The book signing is in the evening, probably in Tacoma, so we could schedule either a luncheon or afternoon talk. Marcus is still coordinating details with the bookstore.

Wendy reported about Frank Pasquale's survey that was sent to all members (most requested it) – results are expected to be published 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007, and he offered to be a speaker.

Wendy discussed the benefit of having 'members only' features like the survey (we got about 4 new members from the survey announcement). Perhaps a \$5 off during membership drive, or an offer like "come to blood drive, get \$5 off new membership".

Marcus said some of his books listed on the online library are actually in the library now. Megan will check on this.

Shellie and Marcus will do a review of books they read.

Wendy confirmed that we are officially approved as a 501(c)3 non-profit! They are sending papers to Jerry. He will renew his change of address form with the post office, in case they haven't processed his new address yet.

Megan will send out another Member Update next week, focusing on the upcoming election and nomination process. Also include blurbs about the picnic, survey, and the Fremont Fair.

September Election meeting location: Shellie researched Seattle meeting locations, but all Seattle libraries close at 8. It was suggested to have the meeting on a Sunday afternoon. Shellie will try to make a reservation for the 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00, preferably at the university, greenlake or northgate (new) branches, otherwise try for the 17th.

Would like to also show a Dawkins episode at the meeting.

Megan reported that Michael Shermer will be in Seattle for a talk at Town Hall on September 12th. She will post an announcement on the Yahoo group.

### **Constitutional Amendments:**

Megan reported that the constitution erroneously omits the Vice-President in the list of board members. Made a motion to bring this correction to a vote at the member meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

Megan drafted a new section (8.4) to the bylaws, to reflect the Membership Fees annual review that was decided at a previous board meeting. A vote was taken to approve the wording, and was approved 7-0.

Megan will save new document and post to the website.

Jerry proposed that, as a policy, we should have a final version and a working version available of the constitution and bylaws. Megan will begin saving in a “track changes” format, so both ways can be viewed.

A discussion was held about different board term options. Ideas included:

- 2 vs 1 year terms
- 2yr officer positions, 1yr at-large positions.
- increasing board size
- eliminate alts
- non-board leadership positions?
- Need more non-board meetings to coordinate with non-board members

Kyle proposed bringing to meeting and recommending: increase officer terms to 2-year terms (elections on even years), and keeping at-large positions at 1-yr terms.

A vote was taken to take vote on the motion? 7-0

A vote was taken on the motion – Approved 6-1

Jerry proposed bringing to meeting and recommending: eliminating the 2 alternate board member positions, thereby increasing at-large members from 3 to 5 (and the total board members from 7 to 9).

A vote was taken to take vote on the motion? 7-0

A vote was taken on the motion – Approved 7-0

Kyle started to set up a Paypal account so that we can accept memberships online. Jerry will finish creating the account. Kyle will create or get help creating an online membership form.

Meeting was adjourned.

***The following constitutional amendments will be brought to the September meeting for vote among the memberships:***

1. Correction to Section 3.5 of the Constitution to include Vice-President in list of board members.
2. Amendment to Constitution to increase officer positions to 2-year terms (with elections on even years), while keeping at-large positions at 1-yr terms.
3. Amendment to Constitution to transform the 2 alternate board member positions to regular board member positions, thereby increasing at-large members from 3 to 5.

***Summary of Action Items:***

- Shellie will coordinate KUOW pledge drive volunteers
- Wendy will contact Mike Newdow about cashing his check.
- Marcus will coordinate with Univ. Bookstore about Dawkins event
- Megan will check Marcus' library book list.
- Shellie will write a book review for the website
- Marcus will write a book review for the website
- Jerry will renew his change-of-address with the post office.
- Megan will send a Member Update with election information
- Shellie will make a room reservation for the election meeting
- Megan will post the Shermer event on the Yahoo group.
- Megan will save updated Constitution to the website, tracking changes.
- Jerry will finish setting up Paypal account
- Kyle will create online membership form.