

Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Meeting January 25th, 2004

Summary of action items follows meeting notes

Time and Date: Sunday, January 25th, 2004 at 6:00 PM

Location: Wendita Britton's home

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

WB - Wendita Britton – President

GH - Gloria Hariharan – Member at large

PI - Pat Inniss – Vice President

JS - Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

The meeting was called to order by Wendita and agendas were distributed to those in attendance.

The 501 c (not for profit) certification was discussed. PI explained that we have until summer to complete it, but we may need to seek professional assistance if we can't figure it all out. We have nine months after incorporation. WB stated that although we do not need to do it at this time due to our size and level of money we should be prepared in case we receive a large donation or increase in size.

Wendita requested that PI talk to the web team about adding a copy of the bylaws to the web page.

The vacant board member (Secretary) was discussed. Marcus Dunavan was appointed as secretary pro-tem to take notes for this meeting. The number of Board meetings in a year was also discussed. JS moved to set the size of the Board at seven members including a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and three at-large members. GH seconds, the motion passed 4 to 0.

WB moved to hold meetings every other month with the next meeting to be held in March. JS seconded and the motion passed 4 to 0.

GH raised the issue of private versus public meetings. JS explained that members are welcome to attend the Board meetings with the understanding that this is where business is conducted.

The date of elections was discussed. The articles of incorporation were dated September 9. JS moved that Board elections take place at the September meeting. WB seconds; motion passed 4 to 0.

JS opens nominations for members at large. WB nominates Megan Spielbusch. GH seconds and the motion passes 4 to 0. Gloria nominates Tiffany Greenleaf. JS seconds and the motion also passed 4 to 0. At that point the new at-large members were welcomed.

JS opens nominations for Secretary. JS nominates MD. GH seconded and the motion passed 6 to 0. MD was welcomed to the Board.

The roster of Board members was read as follows:

President – Wendita Britton

Vice President – Pat Inniss

Secretary – Marcus Dunavan

Treasurer – Jerry Schiffelbein

Members at large – Gloria Hariharan, Megan Spielbusch, Tiffany Greenleaf, and Tad Glines (not present).

It was noticed that we now had eight members in violation of the agreed upon seven members. WB mentioned that we could vote TG out of the Board. GH said she was willing to leave if needed. JS moved to resolve the issue by making TG an alternate Board member with the ability to vote and make up a quorum if at least one Board member was absent. GH seconds and the motion passed 7 to 0.

The site of future meetings was discussed. Sunday was busy for many who hiked and wanted to enjoy their weekend. Others preferred not meeting on weekdays. It was noted that private residences were preferred since business could get done and the last meeting that took place at the same time as the Atheist Meetup was not successful. WB offered her home as a permanent meeting spot.

GH moved that meeting location be decided at the previous meeting so there would always be two months notice of the location. JS seconded and the motion passed 7 to 0.

MD offers his house for Sunday, March 21st at 6:00 PM and it was agreed upon.

JS moves to add a second alternate member of Kyle Hepworth. WS seconds and the motion passes 7 to 0.

WS requests that all business items be posted to PI and he will put them on the site and make sure they appear on the agenda. GH moves to put agenda items for the next meeting on at the previous meeting. JS seconds. Discussion ensues. PI stated that two months is along time and agenda items will change radically. The motion failed 0 to 7.

JS asked to add membership items to the agenda for this meeting.

JS moves for dinner/snacks after the meeting. JS modifies motion to pizza. JS withdraws the motion. WB brings the meeting back into order.

JS states that all bylaws related rules should be added to the bylaws that were voted upon at this and previous meetings.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read by JS. PI moves to approve the previous minutes as amended. WB seconds and it passes 7 to 0.

WB states that the cable TV show is on hold until February 15th due to the pledge case business. There will be a planning meeting then.

Web page related issues are discussed. WB says that bylaws should be posted on the website. The current web team is Mike McComber, TG, and Mike Owen. MD should be added to the web team.

GH explains that this is a big election year and we should get people motivated by placing a link to voter registration on our web site. And maybe we could make a political discussion board. The web team should look into this. WB explains that because of the 501c certification we have to avoid political affiliation. Also our organization has people of many political backgrounds. PI agrees that this could be a good idea. MD will look into the feasibility of this with the web team.

The Yahoo group website was then discussed. JS stated that it shares the same name and we should clarify our relationship to the web page. TG liked the free discussion that the web page allowed. WB explained that the website belongs to her and it is not affiliated with Seattle Atheists. GH proposed that a disclaimer be added to the Yahoo site.

GH moved to send a letter of thanks to WB for maintaining the list and allowing Seattle Atheists to post their activities on there. The letter should express that the views on the Yahoo site are not necessarily those of Seattle Atheists and request that WB add a disclaimer to that effect. This would apply to both the calendar and discussion group lists. MD seconds and the motion passed 7 to 0.

JS states that Secular Seattle voted to create a Yahoo Group intended to be just events and announcements. This was discussed further. JS moved that the Seattle Atheists kindly request TG to allow us to post out events on the Secular Seattle web site. JS accepted a friendly amendment from GH to add the Tacoma Atheists, Bremerton atheist group, and the Society for Sensible Explanations. JS accepted a friendly amendment from MD adding that we would offer to reciprocate as needed. TG seconded and the motion passed 5 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

JS presented the Treasurer's Report through January 20th. We had \$902. \$175 in dues, \$125 general funds, \$300 for the Newdow pledge case, \$302 to the building fund. JS stated he was compiling membership information.

Membership dues were discussed. JS thought that family memberships should be cheaper. This was in line with many similar organizations. WB discussed lifetime memberships. GH requested that we stipulate that membership would exist only as long as the organization. WB and PI thought that that was implied and we didn't need to state it. TG moved that a lifetime membership application be created that would include the receipt of a signature from the applicant stating that they understood that the lifetime membership benefits would end if the organization ceased to exist. WB seconded and the motion passed 7 to 0.

Membership dues were discussed again, especially the rates for family and individuals. JS moved that family dues be only nominally more than individual dues. PI and MD asked that 'family' be changed to 'household' and this was acceptable to JS. JS clarified the motion to state that individual dues would be \$15 and household dues would be \$25. Discussion ensued and MD, MS, and KH argued that individual dues should remain at the higher \$25 amount since raising funds was important and that was not a too large amount. JS modified the motion again to include a \$15 student/low-income rate, a \$25 individual rate, and a \$35 household rate. MD seconded. WB moved to amend the motion to make all dues \$25. The amendment does not receive a second. The motion passed 5 to 1 to 1. GH moved to add senior 55 and older to the student and low-income due rate at \$15. JS seconds and the motion passed 5 to 2 to 0.

WB moved to extend the bargain \$500 lifetime membership price to all of 2004 as well and then raise the amount to \$1000 in 2005. JS seconded. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Letterhead, business cards, and brochures are discussed. MD explained that the logo currently on the website looks just like American Atheists and should be changed. JS agreed. It was agreed that the next agenda would contain an item to vote on a logo. Any one can submit a logo for consideration.

PI will examine the letterhead with a logo costs and report at the next meeting. WB asked that membership kits be completed by the end of March. MD agreed to explore a low cost membership kit to include a certificate of membership, a lifetime member application, business card(s), and membership cards that would fit in a tri-fold or manila envelope.

WB gave a pledge case update. The due date is February 13th and it is due to the printer by February 10th. We have received cash from other organizations and have received a cost guarantee from the lawyer for \$1500 or less. The case will be heard March 24th and a decision will be made in June.

WB moved to keep the \$800 allocated to the pledge case until June. WB amended her motion to rename the money a Legal Fund with no end date and. MD seconded and the motion passed 7 to 0.

JS proposed that the board assemble a mission/purpose/philosophy statement and WB agreed that the board should assemble this at the next meeting. GH asked that all Board members write one and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

GH moved to adjourn. JS seconded and it was agreed 7 to 0.

Summary of Action Items:

- PI to complete 501c certification.
- PI to talk to web team about adding bylaws to the web page
- MD to e-mail meeting notes to board members by Sunday, February 1st
- MD to host the next Board meeting at his residence. Address available upon request
- PI to collect agenda items for the March meeting and submit them to WB prior to the meeting.
- JS to follow up on bylaws changes from this and previous meetings by proposing official wording and with Board approval, posting these to the bylaws.
- WB to schedule a meeting for the cable TV show around February 15th.
- MD to explore the feasibility of adding a discussion board to the web site.
- Someone (not specified) is to write a letter to WB regarding the Seattle Atheists Yahoo Group as agreed upon.
- Someone (not specified) is to request that we be allowed to post our event notices on the sites of other atheist groups as agreed upon.
- JS to update member information with new Board members contact info and to collect dues from new Board members that had not yet paid.
- All interested members will submit logo ideas to be voted on at the next meeting.
- PI will examine the costs of letterhead with a logo and report at the next meeting.
- MD will design several options for a low-cost membership kit and present at the next meeting.
- All Board members will bring ideas for a mission/purpose/philosophy statement to the next meeting for discussion.