

## Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Meeting January 20th, 2005

*Summary of action items follows meeting notes*

*Time and Date:* Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7:00 PM

*Location:* Bellevue Library

*Board members present at the meeting:*

MD - Marcus Dunavan – President

WB - Wendy Britton – Vice President

JS – Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

MS - Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

KH - Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

TG – Tiffany Greenleaf – Member at large

PI – Pat Inniss – Member at large

GH - Gloria Hariharan – Alternate member at large

RR – Randy Rumley – Alternate member at large

Also present:

Myra, Lonny, Robert, Bob S., Wendi

14 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by MD.

Pizza was consumed throughout the meeting and was found to be delicious.

MD announced the upcoming meeting and events, which are also summarized on the website and/or the Yahoo group.

The minutes for the prior meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

Bob S. talked about his experience traveling to Mongolia with Mercy Corps, and answered questions.

WB reported that we have currently collected almost \$1,000 for our donation to Mercy Corps. She will present the check to Dan O'Neill, Mercy Corps founder, on Saturday. It was discussed that we should raise money again next December, since aid organizations often experience a sharp drop in donations even though the need remains long after the disaster.

Darwin Day – February 12<sup>th</sup>. Randy to host movie night featuring “evolution-themed” movies.

Community Service update:

Habitat for Humanity requires volunteers to attend an orientation before participating. We'll try to get everyone who's interested to attend either the February 2<sup>nd</sup> or March 2<sup>nd</sup>

session, and then coordinate with H4H to find a Saturday in March or April to work on a house.

Also, it was suggested that we look into participating in United Way's Day of Caring (in September). However, some concerns were expressed that United Way does support the Boy Scouts, which discriminates against atheists. In addition, Habitat for Humanity is a "christian" organization. There were mixed feelings about whether we should find other outlets for our community service, or utilize the visibility of these groups and events to put a "positive face" on atheism. We'll continue this discussion, while pursuing these and other volunteer opportunities.

Garrison-Martineau Project – MS reported that we're still looking for contacts at a church to partner with. Once we get past this biggest obstacle, the sessions will be easy to set up and execute. It was requested that if anyone knows of any church or church member that might benefit from this program, please forward the contact.

Discussion was held about growing our membership. It was acknowledged that the Meetups are the biggest source of members, and therefore we should do a better job at getting information about us at these events. We also need to brainstorm ideas for getting out the word to the general public. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic would be a good opportunity, especially if we could give it a "theme" or angle, and do press releases.

The treasurer reported one new member since the last meeting.

MD presented the Budget Committee's draft of this year's budget, and it was "OKed" by everyone in attendance. GH reported that HOW and ECS have both made funding commitments for the Picnic.

T-shirts – KH presented the proposed design for the t-shirts. Pre-orders were taken for the people in attendance, and the order will be finalized by the board at the next meeting.

PI reported that the not-for-profit paperwork has been submitted, and we should hear back within 120 days.

MD volunteered to chair the Awards Committee, with Myra, Randy, and Pat as committee members.

Website – MS to post the pamphlet on the website, instead of just the membership form.

Meeting was adjourned.

***Summary of Action Items:***

- Everyone: send ideas for growing membership
- MS to post H4H orientation dates on website.
- MS to make pamphlet available on website.
- Anyone with church contacts, please forward to MS