The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 2021

In Attendance:

Arwen Hubbard

Mark Green

Robin C.

C. Wendt

Katie Frooman

Jon Cleland Host

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The meeting opened with Jon sharing a piece from his focus: an amorphous lump of melted metal (bismuth + tin, poured into water), which symbolizes the recognition of all stars in our ancestry as part of the Solstice celebration; in addition, Mark reflected upon the cozy long nights of Winter.

Meeting video and audio transcript were recorded and will be made available only to Council members who could not attend the meeting.

ACTION ITEM:

Arwen – Send meeting video to all Council members who could not attend

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(1) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

No edits to the OCT2021 Minutes were required, and they were approved with only Robin abstaining, as she could not attend the prior meeting.

NOTE: Some Action Items from the last meeting remain incomplete; these were reviewed by the Council and as needed were added to the appropriate sections of the DEC2021 Minutes.

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(2) Education Committee

The launch ritual date for **The Library** has been set for 29JAN2022. It will be part of the Saturday Atheopagan Mixer.

Robin confirmed that the Framework has been posted to the Facebook group; she plans to add it to The Library.

Launch of The Library – and the building of resources – is a priority Goal for 2022.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Mark – Feature the launch ritual in the list of upcoming Mixer events

Robin – Send information to Mark to post on Facebook, requesting content submissions for The Library

Mark – Promote the launch ritual in the upcoming edition of *The Atheopagan Voice* newsletter (to publish ~20/21JAN2022)

Arwen/Mark – Promote the launch ritual in *The Wonder* podcast

Robin – Add the Framework to The Library

Robin – Book a meeting with the Educational Committee + Michael Halloran to design the launch ritual

Robin – Faciliate The Library's launch ritual on 29JAN2022

ACTION ITEMS remaining open (both items currently on hold):

Develop the Resources document – focus on what is already

Draft 'How to Teach/Pedagogy' guidance

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(3) Media/Outreach Committee

The Committee (Arwen, James, and Mark) will be holding a breakout meeting soon to discuss strategy and follow up with identified volunteers.

The committee will plan the creation of YouTube intro and outro videos, and will explore leveraging non-video features (such as Announcements) available on YouTube.

We are targeting a Spring Equinox launch for the YouTube update. The channel currently has over 500 subscribers.

It was confirmed that the text chat/voice chat feature has been added to the Discord to improve accessibility.

Mark noted that several Atheopagan events have been spontaneously initiated by others, such as the Book Club, the Death Cafes (including advice from a Doula), and the Ex-Vangelicals monthly Zoom meeting.

The Facebook group is on track to achieve 10K subscribers by the end of 2022! If the group size becomes unwieldy we may consider splitting it into sub-groups.

Media presence is a priority Goal for 2022.

ACTION ITEMS remaining open:

Committee – Hold a break-out meeting to solidify strategy and report this back to the Council

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(4) clerical Committee

The clerical Committee has completed its mission of publishing a cleric's guidebook; the Committee is now on hold. The Guidebook is regularly downloaded; there are now ~300 registered clerics.

(5) Finance Committee

TAPS now has its own PayPal account.

Mark has transferred the PayPal funds (~$2500 – primarily SunTree event funds) into the Redwood Credit Union account, as well as the ~$1300 he had been holding in a sequestered account, bringing the total to ~$3800.

Our Bylaws stipulate that we have an identified Finance Committee of at least 2 Council members; Tonya (our Treasurer) and Arwen have agreed to comprise our Finance Committee. Arwen will contact Tonya to update her on this decision.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Arwen – Contact Tonya regarding the Finance Committee membership

Arwen – Prior to the next TAPS Council meeting, notify Mark of the need to provide a Financial report; add this item to the meeting agenda

Mark – Provide the quarterly Financial report at the next TAPS Council meeting

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(6) SunTree Retreat

The event committee will be meeting on Sunday, 02JAN2022 to finalize marketing/promotional strategy.

40 Atheopagans have registered thus far; the event can support up to 78 registrants.

Mark recently sent reminders to registrants with outstanding submissions (payments and/or option choices).

The event program has been finalized and will be published soon. Jon is scheduled to facilitate two workshops (out of the 25 he proposed!).

The SunTree Retreat is a priority Goal for 2022.

NEW ACTION ITEM:

Event Committee – Hold breakout meetings and publish event materials as needed

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(7) Diversity Committee

The Council agreed that a 2022 Goal is to publish a Diversity statement. Other action items are on hold at this time. This statement will be reviewed at the next TAPS Council meeting.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Katie – Draft a TAPS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement that can be published on our website & other venues; to discuss at the 30MAR2022 meeting

ACTION ITEMS remaining open (both currently on hold):

Robin – Post call for Committee membership on Discord

Robin – Contact leaders of A-P LGBTQ Discussions & Rose Arcati

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(8) New Business – 2022 Goals

The Council agreed that, apart from the moderators for the Facebook and Discord groups, the Council is the main decision-making body for Atheopagans. As such, we outlined our Goals for the New Year:

New Atheopagan book – Mark is targeting completion by the Summer Solstice, bearing in mind it is a large work. He made a general call for summer/autumn themed recipes and crafts. Gluten-free recipes are welcome!

Facebook Policies – Robin proposed a possible solution to the ongoing issue of users not captioning Facebook posts for accessibility – we have several users who utilize screen readers and require captioning to access all content. Moderator reminders haven't been sufficient to improve compliance.

The proposal is to identify properly-captioned posts and enter them in a quarterly drawing for Atheopagan-themed schwag (which Robin is creating by hand). We could utilize hashtags to identify captioned posts, and search for them for the quarterly drawing.

In addition, the moderators could pin a reminder. However, since there are already several pinned policy reminders, the Council recommended that the policies be consolidated into one file, perhaps leveraging the “Lessons” feature available through Facebook (details are outlined in the PowerAdmin Facebook group), to walk users through policy expectations around decorum. Mark agreed to explore this option.

Mark volunteered to publish a blog post about our Kinship Agreement (community policies). It was noted that Users cannot join the Facebook group with moderators blocked.

Launch of The Library resources pages – Covered in the Educational Committee section.

Media Presence – Covered in the Media Committee section.

SunTree Event – Covered in the SunTree Retreat section.

Diversity Statement – To discuss at the next TAPS Council meeting.

The Atlas (a resource for Atheopagan-inspired sites to visit) was proposed by Lilith at the last TAPS Council meeting, but no actions have yet been taken to realize it. This topic will be discussed at the next TAPS Council meeting.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

All – Submit Summer/Autumn recipes and crafts to Mark

Mark – Explore use of the Lessons feature in Facebook to consolidate and promote group policies

Mark – Publish blog post about our Kinship Agreement (community policies)

Arwen – Add discussions of the Diversity Statement and The Atlas to the agenda for the next TAPS Council meeting

ACTION ITEMS remaining open:

Lilith & Mark – Compose the communication about The Atlas to the community & promote it – tag it as an Announcement (on hold pending next Council meeting)

Mark – Request submissions to *The Atheopagan Voice* from our community of clerics (on hold)

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The next TAPS meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday after the Spring Equinox, or 30 March 2022.