The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 2022

In Attendance:

Rana Love

Arwen Hubbard

Mark Green

James Morgenstern

Robin C.

C. Wendt

Jon Cleland Host

Michael Halloran

Rachel Wallace

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Meeting video was recorded and will be made available only to Council members who could not attend the meeting (unfortunately, an audio transcript is not available).

Mark read the poem *Thanks* by W. S. Merwin.

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(1) Council Meet and Greet

Jon – Vice Chair of Council; science background

James – Currently on council; recently completed California Naturalist certification.

Robin – Education/Library background; on Council, and leads the Education Committee

C. Wendt – Council Secretary; science background

Rana – in Tampa, FL; not on Council yet; background in art/psychology and business

Michael – in Iowa; not on Council yet; copywriter/English teacher

Mark – 60 miles North of SF; Councilmember at large

Rachel – in Canada; not on Council yet; background in finance; helped with SunTree planning

Arwen – in NM; Council Chair; background in ecology/science

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(2) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

Approval of the DEC2021 Minutes had been deferred to this Council meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

MAR2022 Minutes were unanimously approved.

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(3) Officer Elections

Per our Bylaws, Councilmember terms are 2 years long. Unfortunately, when we started we did not build in staggered terms – so everyone's position is up for renewal now. We will build in staggered terms with this Election.

The following Council officers were confirmed for new terms:

Chair – Arwen

VP – Jon

Treasurer – Rachel

Secretary – C. Wendt

The following Councilmembers will serve only a 1-year term, so this term will be up in 2023:

James, Robin, C. Wendt, Jon

The remaining Councilmembers will serve a 2-year term ending in 2024.

ACTION ITEM:

New Council members - Send your headshot and bio to Mark for the TAPS website.

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(4) Finance Committee

Tonya is listed as Treasurer but has not attended Council meetings. Mark currently holds the TAPS checkbook, but it should be someone else creating the Financial reports. The Finance Committee should be made up of the Chair and the Treasurer.

Election of Councilmembers and Officers

Rana, Rachel, and Michael were all added to the Council!

Rachel agreed to becoming Treasurer. The role involves creating Financial reports for the Council, and keeping track of TAPS' funds.

Per our Bylaws, there must be a Finance Committee (Treasurer and Chair) and they must submit regular reports to the Council.[CW3]

Arwen and Mark are the signatories on TAPS' bank account.

Mark provided starting/ending balances and an itemized expense list to the Council. He provided the June 2022 Financial report.

Rachel volunteered to create the balance sheet/cash flow report.

(see financial report for this meeting for details on our cash flow)

current balance $4466 as of May 30.

No monthly expenses at this time. At next Council meeting, we will discuss covering TAPS-related Zoom account fees, website hosting fees, podcasting fees, etc.

Rachel recommended that we at least record these TAPS-related expenses on our books for now.

Mark reminded the Council that his Patreon account is separate from TAPS.

IRS tax-exemption application status – must have income of $5K or less. However, we are currently showing $12K due to SunTree. The 1023 form is onerous (15 pages) – needed in the next 3 months. Mark will start on this, but may require legal assistance. Rachel has volunteered to help find organizations that can assist. Mark will send her what he has so far. There is a $600 filing fee. (We already have tax-exempt status in CA.)

Since this meeting, we learned that if we are not trying to be a "church" (a status with less oversight and transparency), we can apply to be a religious organization using Form 1023-EZ, which is a MUCH easier online form, and the fee is only $275. We received confirmation of our federal tax-exempt status in July.

ACTION ITEMS:

Rachel – create the balance sheet/cash flow report

Robin - research assistance for Federal tax-exemption application

Arwen – for next Council meeting, add Finance topic of covering TAPS-related account/hosting fees

ALL – Record any fees you incur on behalf of TAPS

Mark – Start on the tax-exemption status application; send current info to Robin

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(5) Old Business – SunTree Retreat

Robin set up a feedback request system. She shared the feedback data with the Council.

Key takeaways:

Accessibility issue with getting up the hill to the yurts/cabins – consider a shuttle? Rent a golf cart?

Could have centralized more at Ponderosa; yurts and Ponderosa were further apart than expected

Need parking spots at the dining hall

Mostly feedback was positive; people liked the food and the fresh salad

Chanting while marching – not so good! People were gasping

Rana brought up Covid – site has extra yurts reserved that we could use for isolation; Fire – we meet at the flagpole.

Per La Foret, our folks were well-behaved and left no trash.

For the visit to the "Garden of the Gods" – there was nowhere to park; it was packed

Next in-person SunTree is planned for 2024. We have reserved an off-peak weekend after Labor Day (06-09 SEP)

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(6) Media Committee

Plan to develop the YouTube channel (and perhaps other media sites). Intend to produce regular videos on specific topics. Arwen to lead editing. James offered to join the committee. Committee needs a “cat-herder” to get the team going.

ACTION ITEMS:

Arwen – Arrange first meeting

Rana – Set up Doodle to assist in scheduling

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(7) New Business

Robin wants to create an **A-P webzine** of art and writing (Council gave their permission to proceed).

Robin will be handing off responsibility for the **book club** and **photo share**.

Rana has begun assisting Robin with **The Library** project. Jon is talking with his UU Humanist Association group (UUHA Board). He showed them The Library. The Education Committee plans to reach out to them.

Mark proposed to create an **online gathering** (in lieu of an in-person SunTree) in 2023. The same guidelines would apply as for the in-person gathering – respect, consent, etc. Advantages – cheaper; no hassles with travel, housing, or food. (Mark proposed a February date, but others suggested later: May or June?)

Event will include lectures, workshops, online rituals, keynote speakers, breakout rooms, etc. Mark shared his lengthy list of proposed event ideas.

Proposed starting with an online Affinity Group gatherings prior to this event, to test out the online format. Considering a FEB2023 event date.

Mark will ask the A-P community for additional volunteers for the online event.

Rana, Michael and James expressed interest in volunteering for an in-person gathering for California, timing possibly in late Spring or Summer; want to accommodate teachers. Will form a sub-Committee and report back at the next Council meeting.

Mark created an A-P Academy **Teachable.com** account. No content yet. Self-paced course set-up takes time to create. Michael is interested in creating course content. Arwen has Teachable experience.

ACTION ITEMS:

Robin – Delegate new persons responsible for book club and photo share

Jon – Reach out to UUHA Board and share outcome with the sub-Committee

Rana/Michael/James – form Online Gathering sub-Committee

Mark – Reach out to A-P community for additional volunteers for Online Gathering

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The next TAPS meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday after the Autumnal Equinox, 28SEP2022.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Wendt
Secretary