The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 2023

In Attendance[CW1]*:*

Rana A.

Rachel Beal

Robin C.

Glen Gordon

Mark Green

Michael Halloran

Jaala Hemingway

Jon Cleland Host

Rachel Wallace

C. Wendt

Emu (community member)

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Meeting video was not recorded. Jon facilitated the meeting.

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(1) Opening Thoughts

Mark read a poem by ee cummings.

Shout-outs & Appreciation:

Michael – SunTree prep

Robin – Reviving Book Club

Mark/Jaala – Moderatorship

Mark – DC environmental work

Rachel – Traveled to DC to join Mark

Glen – Discord

Welcome to all new Councilmembers (we now number 13)!

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(2) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

JUN2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.

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(3) Financial Report

Mark presented the report. Our current balance is $1781.20 (funds were spent on SunTree deposit and Luisa's training class).

ACTION ITEM:

Mark – post report to Google drive

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(4) Social Media

FB (Jaala) – Large influx of new members from Critical Thinking Witches (~24 new members).

Some new people lurking but not joining (did not answer questions).

Added alerts for some keywords (e.g., “anti-choice”).

Civil conversations (e.g., recent discussion on “cultural appropriation”).

Discord (Glen) – Relatively quiet; no mod intervention required.

Glen created a Mastodon (open-source FB/Twitter clone). Currently unofficial (available via atheopagan.net); propose discussing at next Council meeting.

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(5) Goals

DEIB

Luisa is in UK and taking a course in Master’s level DEIB. She will help us develop policies and procedures, etc. Want to convene a survey or focus group.

Mark’s Report

He spent 35 hours last month on A-P activities.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mark - share Luisa’s contract with the Council

Mark - share your Report (+ other docs) with the Council

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(6) Media

Susan noted to the Council to be careful of the thumbnails used for videos.

ACTION ITEM:

Susan – contact Robin re: children's books, round table videos

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(7) SunTree Retreat

Michael held kick-off meeting last month. Settled logistics; looking for deposits soon. Created Google form for presentation requests. To assign roles (e.g., marketplace/vendors). Deposit has been paid. To be held Labor Day weekend 2024.

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(8) Old Business

Official induction of new members (previously approved via email). This was to capture their approval in the minutes. Unanimously approved!

council@theatheopagansociety.org forwards to all members.

ACTION ITEMS:

Rana - coordinate with new members to establish their Council emails

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(9) Strategic Planning

Michael shared our edited document. Items in red were already decided; items in black were ideas/proposals.

Updates to community on DEIB progress – TBD. Need to meet with Jes.

The A-P website Community page lists all mods.

Glen agreed to follow up with the Affinity Groups.

Guest blog? Or a periodical? Develop a list of prompts? An extension of the 'zine concept.

Good to have a community place (not Mark's blog – he doesn't want to "speak for the community").

Atheopaganism.org – switch over to TAPS? And Mark can develop his own, personally-named site (his own domain).

Michael committed to post (to FB/Discord) about new videos every Wednesday.

Rebecca suggested the use of the Fediverse to automate (via bots) to repost. Threads and Mastodon also have this capacity. Can make public posts with no account needed.

Volunteer retreat – Council, mods, et al. Best if IRL, but may not be feasible. Desire for a more open, relaxed setting for team building. Perhaps a virtual summit in JAN2024?

Lauren – volunteered to help with unity/communication.

Rachel – open to being Marketplace Manager; will discuss at the S-T meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Glen - obtain Affinity Groups' email contacts and ask them what they need in terms of support

Jon - Add to next meeting's Agenda – create a Tech committee

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(10) New Business

DEIB

To start with goal setting and meet & greet. Perhaps run a sample workshop, then hold a follow-up to debrief the workshop. Then summarize recommendations. Want to create a community survey.

Sub-committee on DEIB: Susan (scheduler), Michael, Rachel, and Rana

Spiral Scouts

Robin – sent Council a doc with her thoughts

She spoke with their VP. They have policies (e.g., background checks), curricula, and insurance.

They are OK with us making our own badges. They are open to us creating an online Circle (families will do badgework offline, then share).

Jon is an Eagle Scout! Plus he also oversaw Adventure Scouts.

Some concerns were raised about the term "tribe", but Robin thought they'd be open to discuss.

Outside US – background checks, insurance are more complex.

Do we need our own insurance? People could potentially sue TAPS. Mark got a quote of $500/year. TAPS could cover $200; the rest would be part of scout registration.

Parents should all register as volunteers and go through a background check and basic training.

ACTION ITEM:

Lauren, **Rachel**, and **Mark** - investigate Spiral Scouts' insurance.

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(11) Reporter Contact

A reporter contacted Mark. They were assuming that A-P is part of the antitherapy movement. Mark spoke with her and clarified that this was incorrect. But then, she later posted something that indicated she didn't quite understand.

We need a PR strategy. Perhaps always have at least 2 people to talk to reporters?

We do NOT want to be lumped in with anti-science groups (e.g., anti-vaxxers).

ACTION ITEM:

Rebecca, Michael - draft a PR policy/strategy

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The next TAPS meeting will fall on the 2nd Wednesday after the Winter Solstice. It will be held on January 3, 2024.

[CW1]Please confirm