The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 2024

In Attendance:

Rana A.

Mark Green

Michael H.

Jaala Hemingway

Jon Cleland Host

Rebecca N.

Susan Paterson

Lauren P.

C. Wendt

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Meeting video was not recorded.

Opening invocation: “Invitation to Brave Space” by Mickey ScottBey Jones.

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(1) Shout-outs & Appreciation

DEIB Team – People really care! Special thanks to Jaala and Jes.

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(2) Finance Committee

Income includes regular patrons + a few SunTree sign-ups; expenses include MailChimp (A-P Voice), Glide (hosts A-P app), and Zoom. Mark maintains a spreadsheet with details.

Our balance as of 01APR2024: $4364.30.

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(3) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

The approval of the JAN 2024 Minutes was deferred to the JUL 2024 Council meeting, due to insufficient lead time for Councilmembers to review immediately prior to this meeting.

ALL: Review JAN 2024 Minutes

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(4) Tech Committee

Better to post sensitive items (e.g., Financial data) to Google drive and instead send people a link; email is insecure.

Who's using our app?

Mark: Provide APP usage metrics

We're paying $25/month for the app. Rebecca says she can write an app!

Rebecca & Mark: Meet about the app

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(5) Communities Report

Discord, FB – quiet lately; steady new joins. Excitement for Mark's new book!

Rebecca needs Mod or Admin access to Discord

Rachel: Assist Rebecca with Discord rights

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(6) DEIB Report

First workshop with Jes held 31MAR. They'll Doodle the Council to schedule the next session. DEIB Sub-committee met with Lu on 06APR to discuss Survey results.

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(7) SunTree

Great event Plan – ready to populate. Need to Promote so folks have time to plan. Rana/Michael creating flyer by end of week, and posting on Social Media.

Seeing if Denver locals can post flyers. Also consider contacting: Naturalistic Atheist, Pagan, or UU groups.

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(8) Media Team Report

Arwen is currently "stepped aside" from the Media team.

Susan has Mark's cleric videos. New videos coming from new member Jeremy. Not a lot of new submissions. Susan may need someone to take over posting video links to FB.

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(9) Old Business

Spiral Scouts

Robin went dark (possibly for caregiving) – book club is on hiatus. So Spiral Scouts is back-burnered for now.

Also, Mark tried 5 different liability insurance companies and none would insure us for this.

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(10) New Business

Gaza Statement (response to FB/Discord discussion)

Change in tone in FB group since this happened; lower energy. Several people left. Does FB need to be the Center of our community?

Also, some concerns about people using problematic “Founder language”: referencing Mark as The Founder or The Leader.

TAPS is misunderstood; we’re stewards, not top-down leaders.

Do we need to continue to issue Statements? Is it worthwhile?

Our political values – we have a list of 12 Values – perhaps we should have pointed to that, instead of issuing a Statement.

Rebecca reminded the Council that we need to follow our Bylaws; e.g., decision-making/vetoes. Also, some of our guidance is in the Handbook.

A-P will remain primarily online; we should therefore strive to be “digitally resilient”.

Going forward, we should point to our Values and avoid issuing Statements.

Jaala & Rachel: Update our Mod Guidance with this strategy, and add “scripts” to our Google Docs, so we are consistent in our responses

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(11) Proposed Process on Pillars & Principles

Michael has heard some people have issues with “Humility” – should we instead say “Groundedness”? And “Beauty” – should we instead say “Wonder” or “Awe”?

Should we discuss our Pillars and Principles with the A-P Community, and possibly vote to change them?

Mark notes potential confusion if new ones differ greatly from several published materials. Better to add more than to remove any current ones (unless they are Harmful).

Jon witnessed an overhaul of UU principles cause a LOT of disruption.

Instead, we should ask A-Ps, “What do these values mean to you?” – as we plan to do at SunTree.

We should focus on harm reduction, and only fix them if they are truly broken.

We will revisit this topic at our next Council meeting.

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The next TAPS meeting will fall on the 3rd Wednesday after the Summer Solstice. It will be held on July 10, 2024.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

All action items within the Minutes are summarized below:

ALL: Review JAN 2024 Minutes

Mark: Provide APP usage metrics

Rebecca & Mark: Meet about the app

Rachel: Assist Rebecca with Discord rights

Jaala & Rachel: Update our Mod Guidance with this strategy, and add "scripts" to our Google Docs, so we are consistent in our responses