The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 2024

In Attendance:

Rana A.

Robin C.

Mark Green

Michael H

Jaala Hemingway

Jon Cleland Host

Arwen Hubbard

Rebecca N.

Lauren P.

Susan P.

Rachel W.

C. Wendt

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Meeting was not recorded.

Policy Handbook is currently in several files on Mark's computer. **Rana** offered to prototype a completed Handbook.

The meeting date fell on Tolkien's and Mark's birthday! Michael led a toast. Check-ins.

Reviewed how we vote – per our Bylaws, it's via Roberts Rules of Order. Mark noted that any edits to our Bylaws must be submitted to the State.

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(1) Shout-Outs and Appreciation

Mark: Kudos to everyone! Even though he's been very busy, everything kept going smoothly.

Jaala: Thanks to fellow FB mods. More activity from mod group.

Jon: Thanks for The Wonder podcasts! He offered to do one on Science.

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(2) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

OCT2022 Minutes were unanimously approved, with two edits noted (ensure Susan and Lauren are in the Attendee list).

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(3) Financial Report

Current balance is $1770. SunTree will pay for itself (plus a bit more). To launch Spiral Scouts, we'll need $500 for insurance – we'll need to do a fundraiser.

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(4) Communities Report

Jaala: A large influx of new members. Lots of newbie enthusiasm. Michael to run an Intro to A-P zoom soon.

Glen resigned the Council just prior to this meeting. **Rebecca** offered to help with Discord moderation.

Michael: Update on Luisa and DEI training. **Rana, Susan, Michael and Lou** had a conversation with Jes. Jes will act as a mentor for Lou. The group plans to meet again with Jes soon.

Glen resigned from all Council activities, and from being a mod on Discord. He will remain on the SunTree committee. **Mark** will talk with him.

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(5) Media Report

Susan: She'll post future content direct to YouTube (will no longer go through Arwen, but will use her settings). She already has access.

Will do batching of the roundtable videos.

Instagram account: Lovely content on it!

Podcast – The Wonder is in its 5th year!

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(6) SunTree Retreat

Michael: Need to start promoting. Have received 6 submissions for workshops. Will extend proposal deadline through the end of February. Jon offered a list of 10 additional possible workshops he can present!

This year, there will be no cabins – only yurts.

Michael will start drafting the program for team review. Theme is “Solar Punk” (an optimistic future vision). **Robin** offered to propose a program for kids.

Web Weaving – Better to hold it in non-SunTree years. Will SunTree have any remote? Bad internet. Also: Cannot record if there are privacy issues.

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(7) DEI Framework

Jes is knowledgeable and personable; should be able to work with Lou.

Propose a series of workshop sessions outside of Council meetings. Would be four 3-hour sessions + a half-day session.

Jaala: Should we work on group cohesion first? We want engagement, and to avoid “check-the-box” training). Jes can help with this (has team-building training experience).

A motion to meet again, and plan out a calendar of events, was approved. **Jes** to send us a DEI Framework copy so we can post about the project’s status. They will also look at our newcomer screening questions.

(8) Spiral Scouts Proposal

Robin: Created a comparison chart of scouting orgs.

She feels Spiral Scouts is the best for us. (They’ve stopped using problematic terms such as “tribes” on their website.)

Spiral Scouts has:

- Policies to protect kids
- Curriculum, including Pagan content
- Simple insurance

Also looked at Navigators:

- No good background check for adults
- We'd have to provide our own insurance
- No Pagan materials

Lots of parents want to help! Circle registration is $30/year, plus registration for your leaders (yearly).

It is our intention to launch Spiral Scouts by 01JUL2024 & announce that. We need to set a $ goal and do a fundraiser (FB/Discord)

Approved proposal to move ahead with Spiral Scouts, pending a review of insurance and liability.

Robin requested help with researching the insurance. **Rachel** offered to assist (though she is in a different time zone). **Mark** also has some research on insurance he can share.

Robin to propose a budget and goals. Will need specific dollar amounts and number of volunteers; will post the update to FB/Discord.

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(9) Strategic Plan

Mark shared timelines on our 3 big Goals. It's an Excel titled "TAPS Strategic Plan – action items and timelines". We should plan to revisit our Goals every 2 – 3 years.

Still have some open items; e.g., What do our Affinity Groups need?

Blog posts – Create a Council account? Posts should go to TAPS, not Mark's personal site.

Tech Team to create a Discord.

Mark committed to creating a space on TAPS site for blog posts by 01FEB2024.

Rebecca offered to help switch hosts (currently, TAPS is on WordPress and Mark's blog is on Dream Host).

Mark will organize a Volunteer mixer Jan/Feb.

Mark, Rebecca, and Lauren to create Job Descriptions by March.

We will email all volunteers and ask them to estimate their volunteer hours. We want to keep the tracking process simple.

The Strategic Plan was approved!

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(10) AI Policy Statement

Michael: Someone shared an AI-generated ritual on FB. Should we allow AI on FB/Discord? Many objected to it; he shared a statement from Lupa Greenwolf (AI replaces people, which is against our value of social justice). Have provisionally disallowed on FB.

It'd be OK to reference AI tangentially (e.g., sharing an article about AI use in antibiotic development).

AI – If training data is open source, OK. Otherwise, it is banned.

Lock comments on any AI posted. But do not specifically "police" for AI.

Just as memes are not welcome, AI is not welcome. We need to communicate our current AI policy.

Michael: **The Communications Team** will draft a policy statement (noting the caveat that source data must be open source, not private); once approved, the statement will be posted publicly.

Mark to review the Patreon link.

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The next TAPS meeting will fall on the 2nd Wednesday after the Vernal Equinox. It will be held on April 3, 2024.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

All action items within the Minutes are summarized below:

Rana offered to prototype a completed A-P Policy Handbook.

Rebecca offered to help with Discord moderation.

Rana, Susan, Michael and Lou to meet again with Jes soon.

Mark will talk with Glen following his resignation.

Michael will start drafting the SunTree program for team review. **Robin** offered to propose a program for kids.

Jes to send us a DEI Framework copy so we can post about the project's status; to review newcomer screening questions.

Robin requested help with researching Spiral Scouts insurance. **Rachel** offered to assist. **Mark**also has some research on insurance he can share.

Robin to propose a budget and goals for Spiral Scouts. Will need specific dollar amounts and number of volunteers; will post the update to FB/Discord.

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The Communications Team will draft an AI Policy Statement; once approved, the statement will be posted publicly.

Mark to review the Patreon link.