

The Atheopagan Society

Revering the Earth, Advancing Humanity

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2021

In Attendance:

Arwen Hubbard

Mark Green

Robin Clancy

James Morgenstern

Jon Cleland Host

C. Wendt

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The meeting opened with a brief candle ritual.

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

(1) Approving Minutes from last Council meeting

NOTE: Some Action Items from the last meeting remain incomplete.

Minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

(2) Education Committee Report

Due to insufficient registration, there is currently no new cohort in Atheopagan U (a minimum of 5 students is needed). Arwen & Mark plan to advertise the course in a future podcast in March. Mark will post about the course on Atheopaganism.org, and Jon will post about it on Naturalistic Paganism.

Colette created a draft website design for the Educational Resources page and shared it with Robin. After she has reviewed it, it can be shared with Mark, who will then share it with potential web developers (possibly through Facebook networking). The designer may be able to leverage other library or even commercial website designs.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Mark/Arwen – advertise Atheopagan U in the March podcast

Mark – post about Atheopagan U on Atheopaganism.org

Jon – post about Atheopagan U on Naturalistic Paganism

Robin – review proposed website design and submit to Mark

ACTION ITEMS remaining open from September Meeting:

Mark – create TAPS site sub-page for Education; post Framework

Develop an Education website or other delivery method (long-term goal)

Develop the Resources document - focus on what is already available

Draft 'How to Teach/Pedagogy' guidance (the 8 teachers can assist with this)

effort)

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(3) Clerical Committee Report

Guidebook has been posted to the TAPS site. All ritual outlines on Atheopaganism.org are now tagged so you can easily access them via “ritual” in the word cloud.

Future ideas:

Develop & deliver classes on how to be an effective cleric, public speaking, drumming, etc.

Hold a joint meeting with the Clerical and Education Committees

Michael Halloran’s ritual workshops – perhaps publish some of these rituals

There are currently 181 clerics!

ACTION ITEMS:

Mark – schedule a joint meeting with the Clerical and Education Committees

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(4) Finance Committee Report

NOTE: Some Action Items from September meeting remain open.

The Finance Committee consists of Tonya (Treasurer) and Mark.

ACTION ITEMS remaining open from September Meeting:

Open a TAPS bank account at Redwood Credit Union

Mark – contact Tonya re: bank account partner; inform Council of outcome

Mark – email Council with bank account partner requirements

Mark/Robin - Establish Instagram presence

There is currently ~\$1500 in TAPS funds reserved in a separate account of Mark's, which will eventually be transferred to the new TAPS account.

Tonya recently moved from Wisconsin to Oregon, which has posed logistical problems in opening the bank account. To satisfy the Patriot Act, we need her personal information. While it is preferable for Tonya to be on the account, Robin is willing to be the required 2nd person if Tonya cannot.

There are no current plans for this money. In this meeting's New Business, a new Diversity training offering is one consideration. Another possibility is, once we have the TAPS account and Mark can update the hosting for the website, TAPS funds can be used to pay for the hosting/domain name.

TAPS funds could also be used for a TAPS Zoom account. TAPS should have its own Zoom account. Zoom now permits transcripts, which are useful for supporting accessibility, and for providing materials to students.

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(2) New Business

(a) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training Spending

This would be a training offering for the entire Atheopagan Facebook group. TAPS would pay a qualified speaker to cover these issues from the perspective of a person from the affected community.

The Council agreed it would be good to direct students to a foundational “Anti-Racism 101” type course before registering for more advanced courses in the catalog. This course would cover such topics as privilege and macroaggressions.

Considering additional topics such as LGBTQ, Gender ID, Disabilities, spectrum/mental illness.

Robin has done some initial research into possible presenters; professionals generally charge several thousand dollars for a 1-hour event.

Robin will contact the leaders of the Atheopagan LGBTQ discussions on Facebook for possible presenters.

Rose Arcata (a moderator on Facebook) has rheumatoid arthritis and might be interested in presenting. Robin will contact her.

Classes would be offered via Zoom (to permit easy identification of intent and tone). But we should also offer a non-Zoom, text-only way for people to participate. Attendees have the option to mute/no video, and use Zoom’s chat feature to communicate via text. It’s recommended to delegate a separate Chat moderator/facilitator.

Accessibility: On the Facebook and Discord, there is often no alt-text for images. James proposed adding text chat/voice chat to Discord.

The council earmarked a Presenter Fee – proposed \$1000. However, if we pay >\$2K a person, we would need a W9 from the presenter and then we’d need to provide them a 1099 for tax purposes.

We should make it clear that TAPS is the hiring entity, not the Facebook group

or any individual.

When we promote the curriculum, we can solicit community donations to “help support diversity training”; however, we must make it clear that we will not refuse attendance due to a lack of funds.

TAPS should strive to identify professional presenters with credentials/verified experience in the topics they present. We do not want to come under scrutiny for possibly hiring someone unqualified – especially should that presenter end up having to challenge someone on their assumptions.

The Council agreed to return to this vivid topic in the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Robin/James – contact leaders of A-P LGBTQ Discussions

Robin/James – contact Rose Arcati

James – notify current mod to add text chat/voice chat to Discord

Arwen – add topic of Diversity Training to next TAPS agenda

(b) Visions for 2021

Outreach / Community Building – part of the Clerical Committee

Get ordained and start something! – Regional Get-togethers?

Eventually...AtheopaganCon! Perhaps an in-person Council meeting in a Colorado Campsite?

We would explicitly NOT be hierarchical! Regional chapters but with no official role. We are not a membership organization – if a person subscribes to the principles and values, they can call themselves an Atheopagan.

Even pre-COVID, there's already one event in Dallas Fort Worth, and 1 in the Tristate area of NJ/NY.

Perhaps run a booth at a Pagan Pride day – Clerical Committee is interested; we already have a brochure ready, and could assemble a Tabling Kit.