Society of Edmonton Atheists Annual General Meeting

**Date: April 5th, 2016**

**Called to order at 7:10PM**

President Karen Lumley Kerr reviewed minutes from previous AGM

Motion to approve the previous minutes made by Bill, Seconded by Marion

Carried

## Treasurer’s Report – Marion Kilgour

* Gave AB Secular Conference $4000 in 2015
* We got a mailbox for our own mailing address
* Outdoor storage shed – between everything, we needed a central location to store our items
* In good shape financially
* Spent more money than we took in
* Started 2015 with approximately $14000
* Bank account is sitting at $5000 and $700 in merchandise value. NO DEBT, despite spending more than fundraised (much fundraising occurred in 2014)
* No proposal for bus ads this year – no measurable results for the $8000 spent
* Posters (on whyte) is a waste of money
* For 2016, revenue appears similar to previous years – donations and merchandise sales
* Major expenses include $500 conference sponsorship for AB Secular, Pride Parade, roughly $1000 for speakers (Aron Ra), operating costs are similar but will buy new banner, $300 for merchandise order

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report made by Bill, Seconded by Richard Robinson

Carried

## Report from auditor

* Miranda absent, Kathy D reports that she wants to make the system easier and that we need to sell t-shirts.

Accepted without motion.

## President’s Report – Karen Lumley Kerr

* Introduction of present executive and board members
* Thanked Marion Kilgour for her devotion to the SEA and work as a member of the board
* Mary-Karen Reid (flowers for funeral)
  + Mary Karen Reid from past exec/boards has passed away. Memorial service is April 9 at Southside Memorial Chapel - Karen moves that SEA allocate $50 for flowers. Approved without vote or opposition.
* SEA was mentioned in the Edmonton Sun in 2015 – demonstration at psychic media event. Positive article (considering it’s the Sun)
* Pride Parade was per usual – less SEA attendance because of INR5. Pride is a go for this year
* Summer solstice will not cost us money – having it in Karen’s backyard – costs nothing and allows for alcoholic beverages.
* Breakfast, book club, Darwin day and Sagan day are ongoing. New event SPA is a good startup
* Festival of Faiths, 2015 was the first event , we are hopeful we will be re-invited for 2016.
* SEA was the main & founding sponsor for AB Secular Conference – donation of $500 is significantly lower in 2016 but benefits will continue as previous – SEA members get a discount at this successful event
* Aron Ra ticket price – Karen suggests we ask for $20 donations at the door. Only concern is covering Aron’s expenses. Wants to reserve a party room at BPs for VIP dinner with Aron - $30 a ticket for SEA members only. Opened floor to discussion and everyone gave ascent.
* Karen wants us to be more active on issues concerning Catholic School Board and religion in school in general. Luke Fevin is leading this.
* CBC - Allan Bassil was on CBC for a brief 7 second soundbite.

Concludes President’s Report

Accepted without motion

## Secretary’s Report – Maryna absent

* Good overview sent by Maryna – delivered by Karen on her behalf
* Karen wants to push for 100 members
* Need to work on recruiting membership from Facebook.

Accepted without motion

## Director’s Statements

* Rob would like for more volunteers for the highway cleanup initiatives
* Allan ponders the value of owning a section of the highway – still unclear. Karen proposes we do it for the common good and Allan wants the common good to be inner-city and more visible. Further direction may be required from the membership.
* More effort with Habitat for Humanity is desired as well. Issues with available volunteer times as weekends will no longer be available.
* Luke given the floor: he has an impressive resume – leading APUPIL (Alberta Parents for Unbiased Public Inclusive Learning & Albertans for Equality Education. They work to have children “educated equally & inclusively, without religious preference, segregation or exclusion”.
  + First human rights complaints accepted – another few submitted.
  + St Albert: Gideon bibles are gone.
  + St. Albert: religious mission (Pregnancy Care Centre) is now in grade 7 only. Prior to involvement, they were in grades 7,8,9 and CALM 20.
  + Separate schools anticipated to be a 5-6 year fight.
  + FOIP for info regarding the legal opinion on separate schools paid for by the PCAA government turned down due to “executive priviledge”.
  + Edmonton City council prayer has been cancelled.
  + PSBAA (Public School Board Association of Alberta), Luke will be the guest speaker and will offer an atheist “prayer”.
* Luke recognized Marion’s contribution to the organization – met with well-deserved applause.

Concludes Directors Statements

Accepted without motion

## No bylaw amendments

Accepted without motion

## Prep for Elections

* Karen quickly touched on what the expectations are for executive members and directors.
* New thing to note – executive terms are hereafter 2 year terms
* We’ve mentioned there is a need for website and database maintenance – someone should officially take over
* Looking for:
  + a book library steward
  + Social media person
  + Organizing speakers/finding events of interest

End of Election discussion.

Accepted without motion

## Intermission Break

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## Elections

Richard motioned to dissolve the current board/ Bill Seconds

Carried

Lynne self-nominates to be returning officer

Carried

President

Karen self-nominates, Marion seconds

**Karen Lumley Kerr Won by acclamation**

Vice-President

Lynne nominates Allan Bassil, Luke seconds and Allan accepts

Karen nominates Alexander Delorme, Marion seconds and Alexander accepts

**Alexander Delorme wins by majority vote**

Secretary

Lynne nominated Kathy Dawson, but Kathy rejects nomination

Greg self-nominates, Allan and Lynne second/third

**Greg wins by acclamation**

Treasurer

Lynne nominates Kathy and she accepts, Karen seconds

**Kathy Dawson wins by acclamation**

Recording Secretary

Allan nominates himself, Luke seconds

**Allan Bassil wins by acclamation**

Directors:

Harriet (absent) is stepping down for at least one year

Nominations:

1. Brayden Whitlock
   1. (absent) wishes to nominate himself – Karen read his resume as SEA board member for 2015
   2. Karen nominates, Allan seconds
2. Jonathan Simmons
   1. Maryna nominates, Alexander Delorme seconds
3. Luke Fevin
   1. Self nominated, Richard seconds
4. Robert Chamberlain
   1. Lynn Wade nominates, Greg seconds

Martin moves the nominations as closed

Alexander seconds

**All directors acclaimed**

## NEW BUSINESS

**Auditors for 2016 Financial Statements**

Karen looking for 2 people to audit books for 2016 AGM

1. Luke nominates Martin, Richard Seconds, Martin accepts
2. Karen nominates Maryna Goncharenko, Maryna accepts

**Pride Parade**

We have a booth – this is the important part – not sure about parade yet

No spaghetti monster this year? Pirates?

Pride has asked for us to provide a volunteer Marshall. Requires an orientation/training and responsibility is general assistance with parade operations.

**Lifetime Members**

Maryna nominates Karen Lumley Kerr, Greg seconds

Unanimously passed

Alexander nominates Marion Kilgour, Kathy Dawson seconds

Unanimously passed

**Closed**

**Brainstorming for Growth**

* Karen has heard from Habitat for Humanity – we can no longer volunteer on Saturdays. Martin is concerned that H4H is a religious organization. It was decided to abandon Habitat for the time being.
* Karen suggests we pack meals instead – but we need 10 volunteers to participate. Accepted without debate.
* Karen also suggested donating to a Christmas Hampers through the Junior Chamber Hamper Program. Members agree.
* Ronald McDonald House – it costs $300. Randy asked if McDonalds is a business worth promoting – Karen counters that the House is separate and does good work.
* AGLC – Luke says we’ve had difficulty applying. He says we need to dream and dream big – government grants are possible.
* Martin suggests we create a serious fundraising initiative – do not be afraid of asking for money. “A tenth of a tithe”. Karen affirms that fundraising should become a priority.
* Maryna suggests we have more structure with our speakers and educational events. SEA needs to emphasize education & critical thinking.
* Looking for free advertising opportunities such as:
  + Coffee News
  + Metro
  + Comicon/Expo - members voted that Karen can investigate comic expo in Edmonton
  + Conferences/tradeshows
* Need to survey membership, suggestion to use survey monkey.

Karen moved to adjourn and Kathy Dawson seconded.

## Meeting Adjourned at 9:17PM