

MINUTES SMR Business Meeting Study

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

Attendees: 5

01. Call to Order [09:06]

Call for the meeting of the Business Meeting Study Group, on the SMR Zoom account.

We open with the Serenity Prayer.

02. Call to Service (*The following attendees offered to be of service*)

- a. Meeting Chairperson - Jim R
- b. Recording Secretary - Jim R
- c. Timekeeper - Stephen
- d. Other (*optional*) -

(Record the meeting) **Not Recorded**

03. Statement of Purpose - read by Stephen

*We meet to discuss the various topics related to the business practices of the Strengthening My Recovery ACA meeting group. Our **GOAL** is to recommend to the meeting membership, for approval, standardized practices for conducting our business. All members are welcome to participate.*

04. Compartment Agreements - read by Jim, Vivienne

05. Approval of the Minutes -

Motion to approve of the May 5th Minutes - Vivienne; 2nd - Stephen; unopposed

Motion to approve of the April 10th Minutes - Stephen; 2nd - Vivienne; unopposed

06. Adoption of the Agenda - Motion to adopt - Stephen; 2nd - Vivienne; unopposed

- Review Survey (amended)
- Guidelines
- Future Items

07. Open issues (*Old Business*)

NEW - Survey Review

The group edited the survey adding additional options for Readings and a question about the timing of the reports. We intend to resend for comment with the intention of publishing in the last week of May.

Guidelines

We are determining which of the statements from our morning meeting script or our Group Conscience meeting script will find a place in the **Guidelines** of our Business Meetings.

We are considering having General Guidelines at the start of the meeting and, later in the script, 'Procedural' Guidelines that pertain to the 'Business' portion of the meeting.

- **General Guidelines**

Creating safety and respect in our business meeting is a responsibility we share. Please be mindful. To the best of your ability, model emotional sobriety.

- **Please mute your audio when you are not speaking.**
- **Turn off your video when moving around or doing other activities while listening.**
- **Also, do not to distract others with written chats**

To Speak:

Please raise your Digital Hand and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Priority is given to those who have not yet spoken. And, if a point has been made, ask yourself if it needs to be repeated.

Speaking times may be limited:

During our Reports

- **We offer 2 to 3 minutes for those giving reports and**
- **1 minute for questions or comments and answers**

NOTES from our discussion:

We are glad to recommend moving away from Robert's Rule of Order as the foundation of our business model. No one knows Robert's fully. Those who have a basic understanding are often seen as having expertise, and as such, as authority figures. It sets up a dynamic of winners and losers. Competitive.

A **Group Consensus** process may be utilized as opposed to a minority/majority dichotomy. Bring everyone into the process, asking, "Is this something you can live with?"

Questions were raised. How does it work with a very large group? In gathering consensus, every opinion may need to be vocalized.

We are still asking ourselves if some version of the following statements from the business script would be included. Our impressions are noted in the Suggestion column.

From GC Business Meeting script	Suggestion
The Chair may ask if anyone has a motion around an issue	The Chair would have some ability to direct the meeting - perhaps asking for ... or postponing discussion

We will have one minute of silent meditation after a motion has been seconded and discussed, just before voting	Have a devoted servant to call for the pause (30 seconds or up to one minute) before 'voting'
A motion passes with a simple majority (50% + 1, of the total yes and no votes cast)	Consensus Model preferred - perhaps try different approaches as a test.
We note those participants who voted in the minority and up to three of those members may offer an opinion. If anyone in the majority chooses to change their vote, another vote is taken - <u>asking whether there should be a revote</u> . A revote is final.	Goal: eliminate minority resistance, at least in order to try a new method.
At any time, anyone may ask for the Guidelines to be read, or for one minute of silent meditation	At any time, anyone may ask for the Guidelines to be read, or for one minute of silent meditation

Next Steps:

Eric offered to research consensus decision making models. Perhaps we may fashion our 'Procedural' Guidelines on an existing script.

Future Items

NOTE: Two issues:

- Limiting the time of Business Meetings and
- Establishing the Traditions as the Self-care reading on the day of the Business Meeting

are being worked into the members survey and therefore will not likely be discussed as anticipated.

08. New Business

09. Adjournment [10:18]

Motion to Adjourn: Eric, Seconded Stephen:

Closing prayer

Next meeting: **Sunday, June 2nd**

Minutes submitted by:

If you have comments about the Business Meeting Study or our general SMR business practices, or would like to add to the agenda, please write to:
*Jim at 12steps4jimr@gmail.com, subject line: **Biz Mtg Study**.*

