

MINUTES SMR Business Meeting Study

Sunday, Jan 14, 2024

Attendees: We began with 8 members, grew to 24 and ended with 10

01. Call to Order [9:03]

Jim R 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
- b. Recording Secretary - Jim
- c. Timekeeper - Staci
- d. Other *(optional)* -

(Record the meeting) **Not Recorded**

03. Statement of Purpose - read by David

*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 Marla

- Raise hands to be recognized to speak
- Priority is given to those who have yet to speak
- If a point has been made, ask yourself if it needs to be repeated
- Be mindful - do not to distract others with written chats
- Anyone recognized and holding the floor may make a motion
- The Chair may ask if anyone has a motion around an issue
- We will have one minute of silent meditation after a motion has been seconded and discussed, just before voting
- A motion passes with a simple majority (50% + 1)
- 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 - asking whether there should be a revote. A revote is final.
- A participant may ask, at any time, to have the Agreements read or may call for a one minute silent meditation break

05. Approval of the Minutes - Motion to approve - Susan Q; 2nd - no one; the minutes were unapproved, to be approved at a subsequent meeting.

The minutes of Jan. 3rd may not have been posted to our website. The minutes were lightly perused during the meeting.

06. Adoption of the Agenda - Motion to adopt - Staci ; 2nd - Marla; adopted unopposed

07. Open issues (*Old Business*)

The WELCOME

We continue editing the Welcome portion of a proposed business meeting script. Our goal is to incorporate the purpose of our business meeting as well as the values of our membership as determined by the Survey results from last summer, found here:

[SMR Biz Survey - 1](#)

Below are the edits already made. It is good to remember that this section sets the tone of our business meeting and can be especially impactful for those members who are new to our morning meeting, or new to business meetings. We will keep the newcomer in mind.

And the final script will be recommended to the membership for adoption.

First Version	Edited Version 2 - 1/14/24
WELCOME:	WELCOME:
“Welcome everyone to the business meeting of the <i>Strengthening My Recovery</i> , ACA meditation meeting.	“Welcome to our business meeting.
My name is _____ , and I will be chairing the meeting.	My name is _____ , and I will be chairing the meeting.
By participating in the business meeting, we learn how to work together in a healthy manner.	By attending the business meeting, we learn how to work together in a healthy manner.
The purpose of the business meeting is to create a solid meeting maintenance process, with appropriate rules and clear boundaries.	<p><u>May Still Require Editing</u></p> <p>The purpose of the business meeting is to address the concerns of the group - past, present and upcoming.</p> <p><i>Possibly [Unity, Service, Recovery], [Intent and Traditions]</i></p>

Here at the meeting, we will be informed of the group's finances and of the various committee activities.	During the meeting, we will hear reports from our Treasurer and various committees.
Proposals (?)	We may also hear members' suggestions, which have gone through our proposal process.
Our meeting members place a high value on respect , remaining mindful of our words and expressions as we avoid gossip and certain crosstalk.	Our meeting members place a high value on respect , remaining mindful of our words and expressions. We avoid gossip.
We aim to maintain safe spaces in which all members are welcome to participate without, or in spite of, fear.	We maintain a safe space in which all members are welcome to participate.
We set aside personal preferences in order to stand in unity with our group.	With an open mind, we stand in unity with our group and the ACA Traditions.
We value transparency , ensuring the membership is kept informed of organizational developments and upcoming proceedings.	We value transparency , ensuring the membership is kept informed of organizational developments and upcoming proceedings.
And we value focus , so that the business at hand stays on-topic.	And we value focus , so that the business at hand stays on-topic.

Discussion Highlights:

- We moved back to a simple declaration of being the Chair of the meeting.
- The term 'rules' may not be appreciated by everyone, stick with 'boundaries'.
- If you're new it could be good to hear the goal of the business meeting.
- Purpose - perhaps something simple - 'address members concerns'
- Suggestion - with clear structure and boundaries; meeting integrity...
- If we will state the Guidelines, later, why get into boundaries at the start?
- Do we need a Purpose line?
- Unity / Service / Recovery... consider the word 'intent', add 'Traditions'
(We paused on the 'Purpose' sentence)

- Proposals - 'Members suggestions...' will this open the floor to all members raising proposals?
- 'Previously submitted'? How about, 'have gone through our process'?
- The purpose of the sentence is to describe for the attendees the meeting that is about to occur. It describes the agenda. They will hear from the Treasurer, they will hear committee reports; they may hear proposals.
NOTE: This mirrors the SMR meeting script - "We will have introductions of newcomers, review the comfort rules and guidelines, then read the daily passage from Strengthening My Recovery, after which we have a 2-minute meditation. We then go into breakout rooms..."
NOTE: At this time we have yet to determine our process for proposing change. There are many variations. At the World Service Organization they have one Annual Business Meeting. Prior to that meeting, proposals from member groups are mailed out to all member groups, to vote on whether or not the item would be put on the business meeting agenda. We may choose to follow that type of process.
- We began to look at the final 5 sentences, which relate to the value statements from our survey.
- The reference to crosstalk proved problematic. Suggest striking it.
- Strike 'gossip'? Let's make it a separate sentence.
- Motion to extend to the top of the hour.
- Safe spaces. Diversity and inclusion are already incorporated into the concept of Safe Space.
- Strike 'aim'. We maintain... Strike the reference to fear (don't bring it up). Keep it simple.
- Unity... will return to this.
- Continued from the bottom... Focus... accepted as written.
- Transparency. Love the word.
- How about 'keeping members informed...'
- No, keep the language as written. We will review this sentence, and the entire welcome, again.
- Motion to extend 10 minutes. To look at the Unity sentence and Our Purpose.
- Open mind... there is always the opportunity for a minority opinion...
- Personal recovery depends on unity.
- As a group we recognize the Traditions... covers it all.
- 2 min. to go.
- Simple chair statement. Look at the entire Welcome again at the next meeting.

*If you are unable to attend the meeting, or even have an 'ah hah!', you may email any suggestions about the WELCOME to 12steps4jimr@gmail.com, subject line: **SMR Script**. You may also include general comments about business meeting practices.*

With a WELCOME in place we will then look at the RULES AND GUIDELINES we will be suggesting. We will consider which readings we feel are best suited to a business meeting.

We may also consider including a message to the newcomer - whether new to ACA or new to our meeting.

Ideas for the Rules and Guidelines:

[With clear structure and Boundaries]

[Meeting integrity]

[Each person gets their own space]

08. Adjournment [10:10]

Motion to Adjourn: Staci Seconded: Cathy; the motion carried, unopposed

Closing prayer

Next meeting: Feb. 7th, 2024.

Minutes submitted by: Jim R