SMR Ad Hoc committee meeting
10/6/25

Members in attendance: Sue, Jim R, Suzanne, MM, Susan, Nancy, Laurie, Angel, Eric

Summary:

Meeting called to order by the chairperson at 7:02 pm Eastern time.

The SMR Ad Hoc Committee meeting focused on establishing qualifications for fellowship space hosts, with the committee unanimously passing a motion requiring SMR members who host the after-meeting fellowship to be qualified either by training or through prior experience. See discussion details below for more information.

The committee also addressed camera requirements for hosts, ultimately passing an amended motion stating "we encourage but don't require after-meeting hosts to be on camera during their hosting when possible," after extensive discussion about practicality and accessibility concerns. See discussion details below for more information.

Eric withdrew his previous proposal about allowing observers to committee meetings, with the understanding that the committee won't explicitly prohibit observers but also won't actively advertise meeting access to the general membership.

Motions:

During the meeting, the following motions were made and voted upon:

Committee meetings open to observers

The committee revisited and resolved Eric's proposal about allowing observers, with Eric withdrawing the proposal under the condition that the committee doesn't explicitly prohibit observers.

Host Qualification Requirements

Motion: That the committee make the recommendation that "SMR members who host the SMR After Meeting Fellowship be qualified with either training or prior experience"

Result: Passed unanimously

Camera Requirements for Hosts

Motion: That the committee make the recommendation that <u>"We encourage but don't require after-meeting hosts to be on camera during their hosting when possible"</u>

Result: Passed unanimously

This motion evolved from Jim's original proposal and went through several amendments during discussion. The final language was crafted to address concerns about practicality and accessibility while still encouraging camera use for building trust and connection.

Additional Procedural Motions:

Motion to extend meeting until 8:30 PM: Passed
Motion to extend meeting by 5 minutes: Passed
Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:38 pm

Next Steps

Jim: Create a webpage for the SMR Ad Hoc Committee proceedings and update it with meeting minutes and agendas.

Jim: Create a running log of motions passed by the committee.

Sue: Send Jim an updated version of the issues grouped by topic document.

Sue: Send Jim the SMR Ad Hoc Committee Gmail address for inclusion on the webpage.

More detail on Discussions:

This section provides more details of the committee's discussions.

Discussion regarding training of hosts

The discussion on training hosts centered around whether SMR members hosting the after-meeting fellowship should have specific qualifications.

Arguments in Favor of Training:

Safety and Trust: Suzanne emphasized that training builds safety, trust, and procedural consistency between the main meeting and after-meeting

Handling Disruptions: Training would help hosts know how to appropriately handle disruptive situations without arbitrarily removing people

SMR Guidelines Compliance: Hosts should understand SMR norms, WSO guidelines, crosstalk rules, and proper meeting conduct.

Preventing Future Conflicts: Eric noted that trained hosts would have language and context to handle situations like the incident that sparked this committee, referring to the time that there were members still in the room engaged in Fellowship when another scheduled meeting needed to use the space.

Maintaining Order: Training ensures someone with SMR knowledge remains present to prevent the meeting from "running off the rails"

Concerns About Training Requirements:

Monitoring Challenges: Susan questioned how training compliance would be monitored and verified

Practical Implementation: Questions arose about who would provide qualification approval

Accessibility: Concerns that strict requirements might reduce the pool of available hosts

Final Resolution:
The committee reached consensus on requiring "either training or prior experience" as qualifications, leaving specific details to be determined later. Jim suggested this could include various forms of experience like room host training, tech host training, or regular attendance at the after-meeting.

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Discussion regarding hosts being on camera

The discussion on camera requirements for hosts revealed significant concerns on both sides:

Arguments in Favor of Camera Requirements:

Building Trust and Safety: Suzanne argued that being on camera at least 50% of the time builds trust, safety, and rapport with attendees

Preventing Unknown Listeners: Concern that without cameras, unknown people (like guests in someone's home) might be listening to shares without the group's knowledge

Visual Connection: Some members expressed discomfort when hosts aren't visible, wanting to see who is facilitating

Arguments Against Camera Requirements:

Practical Limitations: Multiple members noted difficulty finding hosts already, and strict camera requirements would further reduce available volunteers

Personal Circumstances: Concerns about early morning appearances, technical issues with Wi-Fi, and people doing other activities while hosting

Accessibility Issues: A member raised a concerns about excluding people who can't see, questioning if on camera requirements only serve sighted participants

Real-Life Constraints: Sue explained that many hosts (including herself) listen attentively and host while also doing other activities like cleaning or yard work. A cameras on requirement would preclude her from being able to do other activities while hosting.

Final Resolution:
The committee moved away from Suzanne's original 50% requirement and unanimously passed Jim's amended motion: "We encourage but don't require after-meeting hosts to be on camera during their hosting when possible." This compromise acknowledged the preference for camera use while maintaining accessibility and practical flexibility.