

SMR Ad Hoc committee meeting

11/03/25

Members in attendance: Sue, Jim, Sizanne, Laurie, MM, Susan, Anon, others

Summary:

Meeting called to order by the chairperson at 7:01 pm Eastern time.

The SMR Ad Hoc Committee discusses several host-related topics and makes key decisions during their meeting.

Sue announces that Jim will publicly announce the committee's website where meeting materials are available, which passes unanimously.

The committee votes to table the discussion about host training requirements until a later meeting after gathering more input from members, with Suzanne suggesting that interested members draft their own ideas to present later.

The committee unanimously approves a recommendation that fellowship space hosts should read and understand the ACA Community Safety Guidelines, with Jim proposing to remove the "before serving" requirement from Suzanne's original proposal.

The meeting extends twice but ultimately tables Suzanne's proposal about host accountability due to time constraints, with Sue encouraging Suzanne to submit written clarification of her concerns before the next meeting in two weeks.

Motions:

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

Announce Committee Website to SMR community

Suzanne proposed that Jim make an announcement to the SMR community about the existence of the ad hoc committee website

Result: Passed unanimously (7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention by Anon)

Table Host Training Discussion

Anon moved to table the topic of SMR Fellowship Hosts Training for a later time

Result: Passed unanimously (8 in favor, 0 opposed)

Host Safety Guidelines Recommendation

Jim proposed that the committee recommend fellowship space hosts read and understand the ACA Community Safety Guidelines (modified from Suzanne's original proposal by removing "before serving")

Result: Passed unanimously (8 in favor, 0 opposed)

Table Host Accountability Discussion

Laurie moved to table the host accountability topic

Result: Passed unanimously

Additional Procedural Motions:

Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes: Passed

Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes: Failed (no second)

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:18pm Eastern

Next Steps

Jim: Announce the existence of the ad hoc committee website to the SMR community during regular meeting announcements

Sue: Send out request to committee members asking for thoughts and ideas about host training requirements to be submitted for future discussion

Jim: Update the ad hoc committee meeting files on the ACA Morning website with latest minutes and agenda

Suzanne: Write up thoughts and concerns about host accountability to send to the committee before next meeting

More detail on Discussions:

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

Hosts being required to read the ACA Community Safety Guidelines

Points in Favor:

Informed Leadership: Suzanne argued that informed facilitators can model and uphold safe conduct for the group

Consistency with ACA Standards: Ensures hosts understand both ACA-wide safety guidelines and SMR-specific standards like crosstalk rules

Shared Knowledge: Jim noted that having all members (not just hosts) know where to find safety information makes meetings more comfortable and safer

Handling Disruptions: Helps hosts understand how to address disruptive behavior appropriately

Accountability: Ensures hosts represent ACA values and maintain proper meeting culture

Concerns/Opposition:

Barrier to Service: Sue expressed concern that requiring reading "before serving" creates another roadblock when it's already difficult to find volunteer hosts

Group Autonomy: Susan pointed out that the guidelines are from 2020, emphasize group autonomy, and state that meeting safety is every member's responsibility, not just hosts

Enforcement Challenges: Sue questioned how such requirements would be enforced in practice

Resolution:

The committee unanimously approved Jim's modified recommendation that fellowship space hosts should read and understand the ACA Community Safety Guidelines, but removed Suzanne's original "before serving" requirement. The discussion also suggested including safety information in future meeting scripts and noting this as a training component.

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### **Hosts should close the gathering**

Hosts closing the gathering covered several perspectives:

#### Points in Favor:

**Clarity and Communication:** Suzanne emphasized that closing should be verbalized clearly and concisely so everyone, especially newcomers, understands what's happening

**Host Responsibility:** Since hosts have the technical controls, they should formally announce when closing rather than letting meetings end abruptly

**Training Component:** Should be included as part of host training to ensure proper procedures

**Points Against/Concerns:**

**Current Practice Works:** Jim noted that the current informal approach works well - hosts typically ask if anyone wants to continue, and when no one responds, they announce closure

**Technical vs. Intentional:** Jim distinguished between technical problems that cause sudden meeting endings versus intentional closure decisions

**No Major Problems:** Jim stated he had never heard of anyone inappropriately closing meetings just because they wanted to

**Neutral/Clarifying Points:**

Sue acknowledged that sudden meeting endings do occur but are likely due to technical issues rather than host decisions

The discussion recognized that hosts already generally follow good practices for closing meetings

Agreement that this topic should be included in future host training materials

**Resolution:**

The committee agreed to make a note that closing procedures should be addressed in host training, but no formal motion or vote was taken on this specific issue.

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Discussion of Host Accountability

The committee discussed the concept that Fellowship Space hosts should be accountable.

While nobody disagreed with this concept in general, nobody was able to clearly define what it meant, in a practical sense. There was no clarity around what hosts need to be accountable for or to whom. It was suggested that the individual who made this proposal write up a clarification of what this means to them and how they think this should be implemented and send it to committee before the next meeting to facilitate further discussion of the topic. The topic was tabled until further clarification could be provided.