

Back Porch Meeting  
Group Conscience  
May 18, 2023

Attendees: Tracy S., Chris O., Noah S., Christy, Jim, Lori C, Jeff K, Dawn G, George U, Rob T, Joe B, Chris O, Alyssa, Mark, Bobby M, Andrea, Michelle M, Sprout H, Barry, Heather S, Stephen M, Kathi

1. Last minutes – presented via screen share, motion to approve minutes, motion seconded, motion passed unanimously
2. Financials
  - a. No current financials. Three months prudent reserve and 80-20 split for OIAA.
3. Old Business
  - a. Changing signing up for a month at a time
    - i. Remove “four weeks at a time”. Change to...thank you for
    - ii. Seconded
    - iii. Any opposed? None
    - iv. Unanimously approved
    - v. Motion passed
    - vi. Tracy to change SignUp Genius
  - b. Changing up qualifications to chair meeting
    - i. Discussion
      1. As a continuous attending member, with 2 or more years of sobriety and not working with sponsor, could chair meetings without a sponsor
      2. Is appropriate for chairs to be working with a sponsor – helps guide us and keeps us in solution
      3. Yes, there is a benefit to having a sponsor, but does it have to be a requirement? If the chair is willing to stick to the program isn't this okay?
      4. Regular attendance, certain period of sobriety (2 years). Not necessary for the requirement of working with a sponsor.
      5. Check in with another alcoholic (and a sponsor) is vital
      6. All we can share is our own individual experience. There are times in sobriety with no sponsorship. Do not need a sponsor to share experience, strength and hope.
      7. 90 days sobriety is key and sponsorship is not.
      8. If someone has been in the program and has been attending meetings regularly in the same group, it's not important to have a sponsor. They have a big sober network.
      9. Sponsorship has been useful and has been important to maintain protocol. Should remain in our format. Purpose of our meetings is for our newcomers. Someone leading a meeting is counseling newcomers to get a sponsor.

10. Perhaps could be a codicil to the format – have worked a 12-step program with a sponsor, etc., but might not currently have one, and would like to chair.
  11. Doing something without a sponsor is dangerous
  12. Do not see this as an exception
- ii. Motions?
1. 90 working w/ sponsor, regular attending
  2. Minimum of 2 years worked steps w/ sponsor, no current sponsor
    - a. Seconded
    - b. 7 yeases
    - c. 7 opposes
      - i. So many newcomers to BackPorch – we are taught to work the steps with a sponsor.
      - ii. Feel much more comfortable with the people chairing this meeting to have a sponsor
    - d. 6 abstaining votes
    - e. Vote carries?
    - f. Discord ensues – substantial unity
  3. 6 months sober no sponsorship currently
  4. Motion – modify requirement for removing sponsorship requirement
  5. Motion to table until next month's meeting
    - a. Second motion to table until next month
    - b. Third
    - c. 11 approved – passed and tabled until next month
- c. Shortening meeting format
- i. If our format takes  $\frac{1}{3}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a time it takes
  - ii. Tracy to put forth new format and post
  - iii. Motion to table and review final draft
    1. 2-3 minute shares
    2. Remove mute yourself while others are speaking
    3. Remove disable first name / last initial
  - iv. Second
4. Service position for coins and literature – Sprout happy to switch out
  5. Service position – Treasurer
  6. Service position – Back up secretary
  7. Service position – Intergroup rep
  8. Motion to close
    - a. Second
  9. Responsibility statement
  10. Meeting adjourned

Adjourned 9:34 p.m.