

Drew began the meeting at 6:18pm. Andrea acted as timekeeper, Jan acted as secretary. He stated the intention of the meeting is to gather information. Drew explained the agenda - there is a motion on the floor to discuss whether the virtual Fast Break meetings and the in person meetings should hold separate business meetings. How can the meeting be in service to the members and what are the best ways in which to do that?

Ellie read the Preamble

Joe F. discussed the motion that he brought to the business meeting two months ago. He felt that the format of business meeting with virtual and in person together format is inefficient. He believes the two meetings are separate entities. He believes the in person and virtual are independent of one another could be self supporting. His motion put forth is to ask if we should continue with the hybrid business meeting or hold separate business meetings. His intention is that all the decisions produce a good environment for the newcomer. The goal of these evening forums is to explore options.

Jim B asked if the only reason for the motion is to divide the business meetings and if so, is that the only place where there would be a difference in the format.

Joe F responded that each meeting would have its own governance, that the motion is to separate the meetings to operate independently.

Zoe L asked if that would affect the finances of the in person meeting.

Drew replied that an analysis has been done and the in person meeting could be self sustaining.

Marjorie asked what exactly are we doing here?

Drew replied the purpose for tonight is to provide a forum to express and discuss issues.

Marjorie shared she attended Fast Break 1 in person before the pandemic and she has an emotional tie to the meeting that she considers her home group. She feels dividing the business meeting would fracture the unity of the group.

David asked if we could separate the business meetings but keep both meetings as one group. He believes the script needs and edit.

Drew responded that he understands the motion is to separate the meetings. Changing the script would need to be discussed by both meetings.

David responded that Ansonia is a group that has two separate meetings but is still one group.

Lane shared that he attends in person meetings, but doesn't think the meetings should split, but that either meeting should not vote on issues involving each particular meeting. He suggests that there should be a combined business meeting of in person and virtual that takes place

every third month. He shared that that before the pandemic, Fast Break was a large contributor to GSO, Intergroup, etc. He shared the analysis taken in March, 2023 (*not sure of the committee who conducted it*) concluded that contributions from the in person meeting were 82% and contributions from the virtual meetings were only 18%, and that indicates the virtual meetings need to “step up.”

Gay asked how will the idea of separating help the newcomer, and if not, what are we trying to solve? She suggests that if there is a conflict of interest, perhaps the two meetings vote separately. She used the Fireside meetings as an example of how meetings don't always remain self-sustaining. She would hate to lose the name Fast Break 2. She needs to attend virtual meetings for health reasons.

Roger shared that it is important to remember that no one has the answer. There would be no requirement to change the meeting name, but that Fast Break 2 would not be listed in the Intergroup Meeting List. He stated that if we are one group, we should vote as one group.

Sparky/Mike shared he enjoys virtual meetings, but doesn't feel there is enough time allocated for the business meeting to be efficient. He suggested there be a liaison between the virtual and in person and that we should “keep talking.”

Lillian shared she only attends Fast Break on Zoom. She feels it is possible to have business meetings with both, but the structure and time need to be defined. She recommends the business meeting be held at a different time other than between the two meetings on Friday.

Zoe shared she was informed that there is another meeting waiting to get into the in person space on Friday mornings which explains how it can feel rushed. She likes the idea of having the business meeting held at another time.

Jan asked for clarification from Lane on the numbers listed in the analysis. March collections from in person was \$3,211.85 versus virtual collections being \$719.81

Andrea shared she sees the inefficiency in conducting a business meeting in 17 minutes. She responded to a comment made about the virtual meeting - that regardless if we attend in person or virtually, we are all live (beings.) She suggests that we look at our primary purpose in addressing the issue of conducting the business meeting before we vote on separating meetings.

Joe F restated the inefficiency of the current business meetings and that we need to have a ground conscience.

Leah asked what exactly is the problem we are to solve here. Our primary purpose is to help the other alcoholic. She says she has two home groups and thinks it is an illusion that we are two separate groups.

Michelle shared she is trying to understand and hasn't heard strong enough reasons to break up or stay together. Are there the outside issues and perhaps a steering committee should look into them.

Lane shared that the in person attendees do not like the vibe of the Zoom meeting. In his 11 years of coming to Fast Break he believes the business meetings work, and perhaps Zoom

should have their own business meetings. Maybe those who have a problem should go to AI-Anon. He suggests leaving things as they are.

Roger shared he doesn't care if the meetings are combined or separate and that "Breaking Up" is a negative connotation. He suggests that we take a look at the service positions (GSO and Intergroup) and ask if they are doing well. Are you delivering the group conscience if you only attend virtually?

Pierre shared he feels the message and the primary purpose is alive and being delivered on the virtual meetings. He is grateful for the Zoom meetings. He doesn't understand why people have issues - that everyone needs to realize the new avenues that virtual technology provides. He is happy that a certain Zoom attendees stood up for themselves at the business meetings. He feels we are all one meeting. We are all AA.

Drew stated the goal is to determine if the Zoom meetings will operate independently.

Dena shared that she would consider separate business meetings if the meeting formats go unchanged. The service positions with GSO and Intergroup can be fixed. She reminded that so many members got sober on the Zoom meetings and that there is a very strong connection to them and what if there was another pandemic.

Jim B shared he attends on Zoom and doesn't usually attend business meetings, but felt the last business meeting felt rushed and controlling. He feels the most important thing in addressing the issues is to lead with kindness and respect.

Steph shared she attends meetings on Zoom and agrees we should continue to discuss. She asked when the last group inventory was conducted and that perhaps we should look at causes and conditions.

Drew responded that the last group inventory was conducted in 2018.

Gay asked what happens when the virtual meetings are de-listed.

Drew responded that everything will be done to insure those looking will be able to find the virtual Fast Break meetings.

Ellie shared her heart is in the Fast Break meetings and that the virtual meetings saved her during the pandemic. She likes this forum to explore options for the future.

Lane shared that Fast Break has always had a business that concludes in 20 minutes. He is aware that this evening's forum is made up mostly of Zoom attendees and not many in person folks are in attendance. He thinks that if we stay together, there will be pushback from the in person folks and that nothing will change. Nothing is going away.

Lillian shared she attends Fast Break on Zoom that she found during the pandemic and thinks it is amazing. She shared that we have a group conscience for those in attendance, that is the adult thing to do. She suggests the business meeting be conducted on a weekend on Zoom.

Andrea shared that the announcement for the business meeting forum was announced despite the majority here tonight being virtual meeting attendees. Everyone was encouraged to attend and share their opinions.

Drew reminded us to keep shares on the primary purpose and ask ourselves how do we move forward effectively.

Pierre shared this divide is happening between several in person and virtual meetings and that it is important that that we handle things carefully, that this is a very important message we are discussing for Fast Break.

Marjorie shared that for scheduling reasons, she attends virtually, but is able to hear what is happening at the live meeting. She believes that a very practical change will happen to benefit the group.

Roger reminded us that this is not the death of anything. Meetings will not disappear and will be listed through GSO. Procedurally we can vote in this forum, but the group conscience happens at the business meeting.

Steph reminded us that we can only share for ourselves.

Michael F shared he usually attends in person, and that he is only hearing the impracticality of keeping the meetings together. He does however like the option of being to attend virtually.

Dena asked if the issue of rent was discussed.

Drew responded that it had been. He reminded the group that there will be another meeting next Thursday at 6:15pm.

He closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Meeting notes taken and respectively transcribed and sent at 10PM
Jan F.