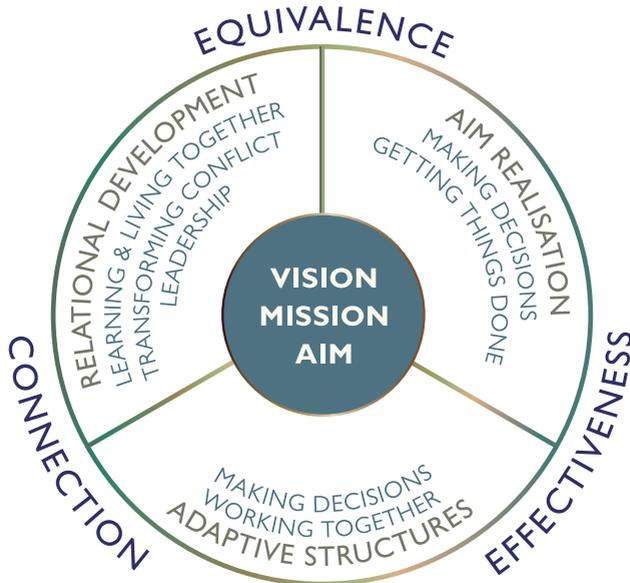


The Way of Community

Circle Meeting Format and Consent Decision Making



Circle Meeting Format



Opening Round

- Check in - What's Alive?
- Request to add or change the agenda



Administrative Items

- Announcements
- Length of Meeting
- Consent to minutes of last meeting
- Next meeting date
- Consent to Agenda



Content

- See three forms of Decision Making
- Selections to Roles and Positions
 - Consent to an Existing Proposal
 - Make a Decision without an Existing Proposal



Closing Round

- Feedback on meeting Process and Facilitation
- What's alive now?
- Future agenda items.

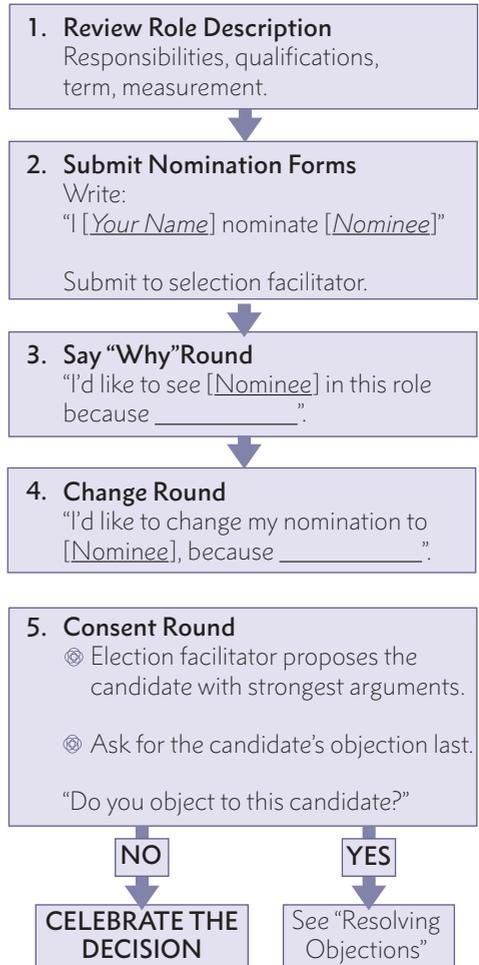
Selections

To Roles and Positions



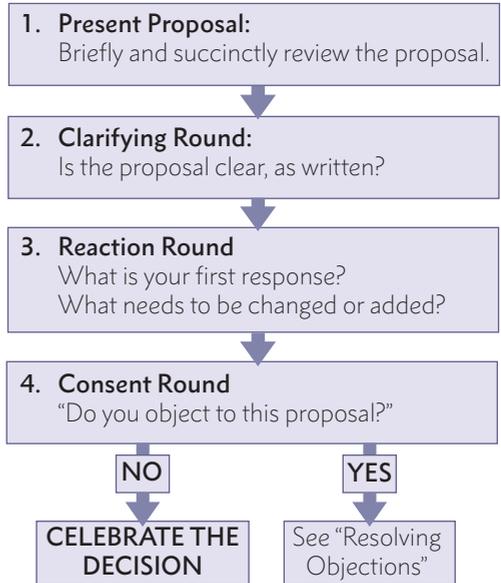
Tips for Successful Selections:

- Always specify a term and measurement for the role.
- Nominate yourself, someone else, or nobody.
- Keep your options open by allowing everyone to be considered as long as possible.
- Make nominations based on responsibilities and qualifications.
- Choose someone who can do the job well enough for the specified term. This is not for life.



Consent to a Proposal

For Existing Proposals



General Guidelines for ALL Consent Decision Making Formats:

- 🕒 Do your best to follow these decision making processes as designed. In the long run, this will contribute to effectiveness and efficiency for the circle.
- 🕒 Use rounds to ensure equivalence and control pacing, particularly when emotions rise.
- 🕒 Make decisions that are “good enough for now”. This included specifying a review date and measurement criteria for the decision and resolving any objections.
- 🕒 Consent or no objection both mean, “I can live with the proposal”.

Make a Decision

Without an Existing Proposal



Picture Forming

Identify criteria for the decision - what needs to be decided?

1. **Explain the Decision to be Made**



2. **Identify the Criteria for the Decision**
What will the decision do? What needs will be addressed? (Explicit or Implicit)

Proposal Shaping

Articulate a concrete, specific proposal that satisfies the criteria determined above

3. **Collect Proposal Ideas**
What specific strategies are used to satisfy these criteria?



4. **Creatively Bridge Ideas: Tune Proposal**
Use categories to organise the proposal. Consider resources available.



5. **Confirm Proposal Satisfies all Criteria**

Consenting

Make a decision about the proposal

6. **Consent Round**
"Do you object to this proposal?"

NO



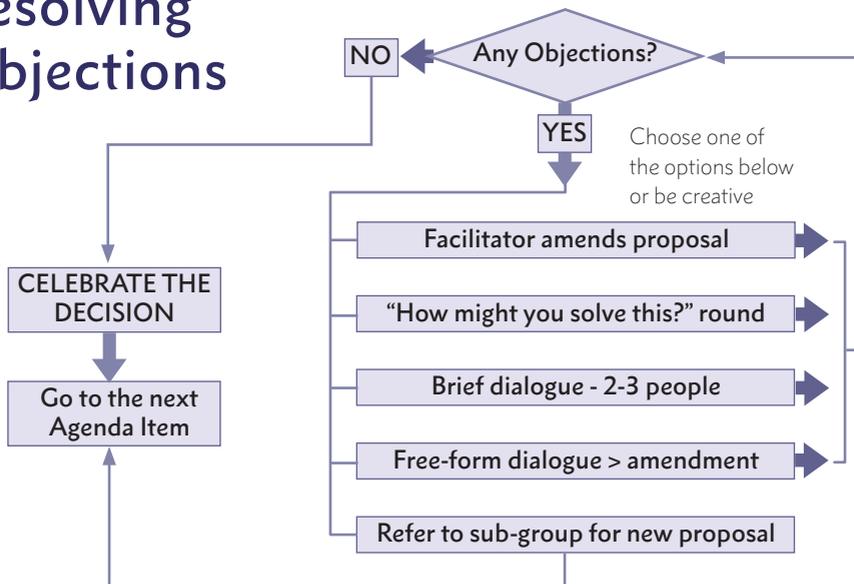
CELEBRATE THE DECISION

YES



See "Resolving Objections"

Resolving Objections



Things to Remember about Objections:

- The objection is our friend! It points out an element of the proposal that may cause harm.
- An objection is both paramount (takes you outside your range of tolerance), and reasoned (has identifiable characteristics related to the aim of the circle). These parameters point to the changes that might be made to the proposal to resolve the objection.
- A well defined objection is easier to resolve than one that is vague or general..