

Spokescouncil Meeting - Date: 12-11-2025

Agenda

agenda wishlist: <https://cryptpad.fr/sheet/#/2/sheet/edit/i7YbsaTtZ5WBf9FYDY3WrVBx/>

6:30-9 pm

Agenda

- **Role call (5 min)**

- **Role assignments (5 min)**

- facilitator - Katelyn
- meeting notes
- stack
- timer

- **Spokescouncil process (15 min)**

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- [Spokescouncil Overview Slides](#)
- quick review from SP WG (e.g. how voting works, etc) + only voting delegate votes but all members of WGs present can contribute to discussion (**5 mins**)
 - RC made up of [working group s who use the space and daily operations maintained by admin committees](#)
 - Admin groups report back to spokes councils during meetings, are accountable to those working groups
 - Proposals are proposed by either working groups or admin groups, open for friendly amendments and then voted on using a [fist to five system](#)
 - As of right now, admin groups don't vote, only working groups do.
 - reminder that this is an experiment! we need ideas and hands to shape this collective process of self-governance

- Write down your questions as we go, we will have discussion at the end
- Q&A/ Feedback about Spokescouncil process (OPEN TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE **10 mins**; strict stack :)

• **Passed Proposal Check-in (5 min)**, ask bottom liners to do a very short reportback:

- Political Education Charter
- Library proposal update
- *Tabled proposal check-in: comms needs a bottomliner

• **Admin committee updates -**

- Report on what was done this month, challenges faced, upcoming plans/needs, and any requests for support or approval. **(25 mins; 5 min each)**
 - General announcement: admin committees need more help!
 - **Legal/ Liability**
 - **Finance**
 - **Fundraising**
 - **Facilities**
 - LP's presentation: front of house cleaning station and bathroom storage hutch (4 min)
 - [Group report back](#)
 - [Tech and comms](#)
 - **Programming and rentals** (shea)

• **Disaster preparedness reportback (5 min)**

- [report back dock here](#)

• **Woodbine Closeout (comments + brief discussion 10 min)**

- gym money moved to open collective
- woodbine still hasn't announced split on IG. we dont need to come to any resolution. this is a placeholder to follow up and see what has happened and how people are feeling about this.
- discussion:
 - WB/RC contract and agreement documents. are they stored somewhere we can see them? can we get access?

- **BREAK (10 min)**

- **Proposal voting and friendly amendments**

- **(30 min)** (https://wiki.commonsnyc.org/wiki/SpokesCouncil/Proposals/Chapter/Pending_Proposals) - First, ask if there are any Blocks and any FA's. If not and no discussion feels necessary, move on to next proposal

- **Working group announcements (10 min)**

- pantry: sunday distro day, need volunteers
- programming/rentals: NYE party, need volunteers
- planning group: do people want remote meetings? (poll to come later after special announcements, think about it) + we need you!
- finance: recurring donations update

- **Special announcements (5 min):**

- free store on sat,
- You don't need a proposal to start a fundraiser, please start one!
- bake sale on sunday! 11 am - 3pm, people cant drop off 9:30-10:30. we need bakers!
- general assembly, call for help planning
- Festivus (fuck jerry seinfeld) airing of grievances + feats of strength TBD

- **Open discussion/ feedback/ Q&A (OPEN TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE; ideally 10 min)**

- **Remote Meeting Poll + brief discussion (10 min)**

- **Action item review (5 min)**

- **Closing remarks (1 min)**

Detailed Meeting Notes

• Role call (5 min)

- Working Groups not present: Dinner, Tutoring
- Admin committees not present: Legal/ Liability

• Role assignments (5 min)

- facilitator - Katelyn
- meeting notes- Shea
- stack- Iris/ Katelyn
- timer- Iris/ Ash

• Spokescouncil process (15 min)

- [Spokescouncil Overview Slides](#)
- [admin committee and WG charters](#)
- working groups work **IN** the space
- admin committees work **ON** the space
- point of process- are three working groups/ voting parties at a meeting enough to establish quorum?
 - Q&A/ Feedback about Spokescouncil process (OPEN TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE **10 mins**; strict stack :)
 - Is a list of admin committee point people available?
 - in admin committee chat description- **needs to be accessible to wider community**
 - clarification- point person is meant to "hold it down"/ keep things from falling through cracks in the committee but labor is meant to be shared by all committee members

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• Passed Proposal Check-in (5 min), ask bottom liners to do a very short reportback:

- Political Education Charter- no update/ progress here
 - spokescouncil planning to review possible FAs tied to charter
 - need more folks to participate
 - open call for speaker suggestions
- Library proposal update- next actions:
 - will announce when clearing the area

- speaking with tutoring to establish what is tutoring materials
- will clear out remainder and submit proposal for new use of space
- *Tabled proposal check-in- comms charter
 - comms needs a bottomliner- **Does anyone have capacity to take this on?**
 - need someone to take lead w social media + newsletter
 - current instagram point person: Vanessa
 - Kohlman tapped to take over- active in gym
 - pls share their signal handle
 - lack of cohesion in outward comms- this group would address
 - point of process: how to join admin committees?
 - opinion: admin committees should be fairly open, we need people to help!
 - suggestion: break out meeting to discuss further- we can't keep pushing this off
 - comms is much more than just socials
 - interface w media
 - inter-group communications- currently a lack of transparency around what's going on unless you're in multiple groups
 - Needs:
 - point person for charter
 - process development for insta, newsletter, media

- **Admin committee updates -[store here](#)**

- Report on what was done this month, challenges faced, upcoming plans/needs, and any requests for support or approval. **(25 mins; 5 min each)**
 - General announcement: admin committees need more help!
 - **Legal/ Liability**
 - Dino received rent check!
 - Insurance renewing this month ~\$5k
 - **Finance**
 - Natalie is transitioning out, finance meeting to ensure gap in duty coverage is filled
 - Gavin working hard to organize finances, breakdown:
 - \$2705/mo in recurring donations- down ~\$100 from last month
 - we need more coworkers + recurring donations!
 - \$4400 rent/ \$6k after utilities
 - operating on deficit of \$3k/mo
 - Discussion:
 - Frustration w lack of transparency around \$\$- still don't have the full picture
 - fundraising is burning people out, we will start seeing diminishing returns
 - Q: Who is putting on fundraisers?

- A: Currently being handled by fundraising committee but **working groups are encouraged to organize their own fundraisers!**
 - Other contributors: Food Pantry applies for grants; Iris + Mike organizing show/ fundraiser @ Purgatory; Shea/ Paul/ Ollie working with ILC on NYE fund-rager
- **Fundraising**
- holiday market brought in \$3400 after expenses- yay!
- Bakesale coming up 12/14 11-3p
 - **call for bakers and day of volunteers!**
 - fundraising needs help- call for new committee members
 - Vanessa leaving fundraising after 12/14 bakesale
 - Shelby leaving fundraising after Feb chili cookoff
 - call for working groups to do their own fundraising- get creative!
 - chili cookoff in Feb is the last fundraiser on the books
 - call for people to design and pass out flyers for events
 - Discussion:
 - is fundraising really a sustainable way to bridge the deficit?
 - disseminate to WGs- we need to pay rent to keep the space open + provide programming
 - Q: should we more aggressive about WG members contributing \$\$/ labor?
 - A: this historically has not been our stance, we do need to stress the importance of financial contributions from WGs tho
- **Facilities**
 - LP's presentation: front of house cleaning station and bathroom storage hutch (4 min)
 - [Group report back](#)
 - please give feedback on the castille soaps currently in use around the space- sourced by facilities- clean ingredients, small business, cheaper than amazon
 - if you'd like to be involved in setting up the proposed cleaning stations please reach out to Lippy
- **Tech and comms**
- working on a distribution system for admin labor- need admin committee members to play w it
- buildig relationship with a coop cloud to strenthen our digital and physical community ties
- **Programming and rentals** (shea)
 - planning NYE fund-rager with ILC- volunteers needed

• **Disaster preparedness reportback (5 min)**

- [report back dock here](#)

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• **Proposal to Change Spokescouncil Meeting Dates**

- FA- Spokesplanning: in the event that the new regular meeting cadence conflicts with a holiday, the spokescouncil planning working group is empowered to use best judgement in selecting a new meeting day that does not conflict with regularly scheduled programming or rental bookings
- proposal passed with friendly amendment
- **next spokescouncil date:** January 10, 2026

• **Working group announcements (10 min)**

- pantry: moving forward with sunday distro day, first day of service 12/21
 - need volunteers to sign up for sorting on Saturday and distro on Sunday-regular AND new volunteers
 - reviving old distro sign up to make sure this is properly supported
- programming/rentals: NYE fund-rager, need volunteers for set-up, party maintenance roles, and next day clean up
- planning group: do people want remote meetings? (poll to come later after special announcements, think about it)
 - we need more participants! Come help us think critically about spokescouncil structure, non-hierarchical governance, and how best to empower working groups

- Gym: non-gym members have been using the gym without signing up for an intro training- this is an insurance liability!
 - reminder to all community members to adhere to gym usage guidelines
- Tech collective: 1/9 coding skill share: Hack the Planet
 - working to restructure basement after contractors finish

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- bake sale on sunday! 11 am - 3pm, people can drop off 9:30-10:30. we need bakers and day of volunteers!
- general assembly, call for help planning
- Festivus (fuck jerry seinfeld) airing of grievances + feats of strength TBD
- Basement update: contractors work is safe but shoddy
 - right side of basement may also be at risk
 - Additional problem areas:
 - no basement ceiling
 - continued flooding
 - backflow issues in kitchen and bathroom
- Dino not open to doing more work
 - what are our rights as tenants?

• **Open discussion/ feedback/ Q&A (OPEN TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE; ideally 10 min)**

- decision to revisit remote meeting poll

• **Remote Meeting Poll + brief discussion (10 min)**

- Q: Do we open Spokescouncil meetings up to remote attendance?
 - suggestion: poll individual WG chats
 - concern that old WB patterns are repeating
 - remote participants tend to be more disengaged, distracted
 - emphasis on being **present** remotely
 - remote meetings could help integrate participation, attendance is falling
 - helpful in winter with travel/ weather/ seasonal fatigue considerations
 - we should try it, emphasize this is an experiment to ease the strain of participating in winter months
 - concern that remote participants will have trouble hearing live mtg attendees, suggestion that meetings move fully remote for experiment
 - point of process: if stack and facilitation are enforced there shouldn't be cross talk

• **Action item review (5 min)**

- Political education working group needs help: suggestions for speakers and events: where is there email or signal to get in contact?
- possible meeting recurring topic: "weird stuff" to ID and remove random items from space
- Comms Admin Committee needs a bottom liner + a charter
 - Clarification on how people can send flyers to be posted to Instagram
 - How to deal with the media (journalists etc)
- Clarification and documentation needed for how to join admin committees
- Orientation Day to invite new people in and show them how the space runs (maybe in the spring?)
- Can screenings become a real working group?
- Legal/Liability need to give updates at meetings. they have been absent for many meetings in a row.
- Finance admin committee:
 - ppl want to see deeper updates at meetings. Maybe every 3 months deep dive?
 - what is in our savings account?
- Fundraising:
 - Donation drive for the holidays
 - call for more fundraisers started by anyone
 - personal donations
 - need help with physical flyering
 - Jan 25 show at purgatory (iris)
 - help with finding grants!
- Sunday dinner used as community announcements and onboarding opportunity (paul)
- tenants rights lawyer to consult for flooding in basement and ceiling repairs (shea)
- need user testers for digital infrastructure, talk to paul
- Spokescouncil planning action items:
 - needs a clear process for requesting admin updates and proposal updates prior to meetings and someone to do that task every cycle
 - why isn't dinner coming to spokes meetings?
 - admin form feedback: keep it simpler, keep it to 2 min long update if possible. max 5 min

• Closing remarks (1 min)

- Thank you for coming, please help reset and clean dishes :)

