Spokescouncil Meeting - Date: 10-18-2026 Agenda (3-5pm)

Agenda

- **Role call and Introduction(10 min)**
  - Role assignments
  - facilitator - s1
  - meeting notes - p
  - stack - s2
  - timer - s3
- **Spokescouncil process (10 min)**
  - Review from Spokes Model and RC governing model
    - RC made up of working group s who use the space and daily operations maintained by admin committees
    - Admin oversees day to day functions- meet every Sunday 6pm
  - Who gets a vote
    - Only voting delegate votes but all members of WGs present can contribute to discussion
    - Admin reps do not vote
  - Proposals
    - Proposals are proposed by either working groups or admin groups, open for friendly amendments and then voted on using a fist to five system
  - Q&A about Spokescouncil process
- **Admin committee updates (20 mins)**
  - Report on what was done this month, challenges faced, upcoming plans/needs, and any requests for support or approval.
  - Legal/ Liability
  - Finance
  - Fundraising
  - Facilities
  - Tech
  - Outside Comms
- **Programming and rentals**
- **Working group announcements (20 min)**
  - Food pantry
  - Gym
  - READgewood Tutoring
  - Dinner
  - Basement
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Yoga and Meditation
- **BREAK (10 min)**

- **Proposal voting and friendly amendments (30 mins)**
- **Review**
  - 1st- Blocks and any FA's. If not and no discussion feels necessary, vote can go forward
  - Pending proposals- https://wiki.ridgewoodcommons.nyc/books/spokescouncil-proposals/chapter/pending-proposals
  - Proposal- Your group will organize this meeting every 9ish Months
  - Propsal- Switching Internet to NYC Mesh
  - Propsal- Create a Regeenerative work List
  - Proposal- Create a regenerative work list
- **Special announcements (5 min):**
- **Open discussion/ feedback/ Q&A (OPEN TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE; ideally 10 min)**
- **Action item review and closing remarks (5 min)**
- Assigning next facilitator

Notes

attendance

16 people in attendance, from:

- collective strength

- tech, comms, finance, programming, facilities admin

- coworking

- pantry

- writing workshop

- sunday dinner

- basement

overview of the spokescouncil

who sent a delegate?

only pantry and dinner had this worked out ahead of time, the rest were ad-hoc and hadn't coordinated with their groups ahead of time. only two groups had checkins about the proposals ahead of the meeting

- pantry

- dinner

- basement

- collective strength

- writing workshop

admin updates

legal / liability

- sign a waiver if you work with kids or equipment or need door code

finance

- $13,374 in bank (slightly under 3 months expenses)

- working to secure a new fiscal sponsor

- bought a new stove

- no block party

- need to spend money on plumbing project to alleviate backflow flooding

- rent is going up in nov

fundraising (shelby / ezra)

- bake sale on sunday the 15th

- anyone can organize a fundraiser, just talk to fundraising committee

facilities

- working on flood mitigation. have contacted multiple plumbers quotes range from 1k-10k

- now using sandbags to keep floods to bathroom

- Q: at what point do we stop soliciting quotes and hire somebody? A: idk

- recommendation against hiring eugene & stivan plumbing

tech

- nothing to report

comms

- nothing to report

programming / rentals

- we need help

- Q: what is the correct channel to have an event promoted? red cal, ig, etc

working group updates

food pantry

- got a large donation, will decide internally how to spend it

- margarita passed away

- need more help in the mornings

- Q: is there a way the night sorters accommodate the morning people more? A: things seem good

- comment: there's a divide between driving/sorting/distroing

- more people are available showing up for sorting at night than used to

- hang out and cowork on tuesdays and help bring stuff into the gy

collective strength

- join the gym

youth tutoring (absent)

dinner

- explained the menu for tonight

- started marking dish detergent & oil so they don't disappear

- coworker Q: we also cook stuff during the day & how do we make sure we're not depleting your supplies.

  facilities: that's our job. if you have a car and/or costco membership, please join us.

- don't use the dish rack

- is there process around throwing stuff out in the fridge

- coworking is open to maintaining the fridge

- hack manhattan has "unlabelled items will be discarded" on their fridge

basement

- flooding is bad

- we're close to having a bike mechanic station set up

reading group (absent)

writing workship

- it's chill. they meet every 2nd & 4th thursday 7-9.

yoga / meditation (absent)

BREAK

Proposals

rc door entrance (passed)

door entrance wayfinding project (passed)

- what do we do about people just bring flyers in?

- proposal passed? (with 4/4 votes votes for group present, out of 8 groups)

https://wiki.ridgewoodcommons.nyc/books/spokescouncil-proposals/page/rc-door-entrance-wayfinding-project

regenerativew work list (retracted as a proposal)

https://wiki.ridgewoodcommons.nyc/books/spokescouncil-proposals/page/create-a-regenerative-work-list

- can we have more details about the frequency of the tasks? how do we actually designate bottom-liners

- where do we discuss where the work actually gets done?

- from a grant-writing perspective it's useful in that it shows where money is going

- it's not clear what the next action item is upon proposal approval

- willing to retract from voting & flesh out proposal more

- suggestion: maybe it's something to do at the all-hands meeting

- small group is willing to take this on

switching to nyc mesh (did not pass)

<https://wiki.ridgewoodcommons.nyc/books/spokescouncil-proposals/page/switching-internet-to-nyc-mesh>

- woodbine was a very early adopter/requester for nycmesh

- bandwidth degrades during rain

- more bot blocking captchas pop up during usage

- Q: the internet was completely out during the heavy rainfall that caused

  flooding. A: coworkers have only reported one problem with the internet so far

- Q: is this gonna work for a livestream events? A: maybe, come test first

- Q: get more specific about the weather, can we go back on our decision if we

  don't like it? A: one option is to downgrade to cheaper verizon plan and keep

that as a backup. we pay $80/mo to verizon & would donate somewhat less. you can't stream when it's raining (?).

- johnny has just been paying the bill without requesting reimbursement

your working group will organize this meeting every 9th (did not pass)

- is all the labor actually necessary
  - yes.
- what's the contingency plan for a lack of participation?
- Q: do we do the bathroom rotation? A: we should give explicit calendar dates to specific groups
- Q: why do we need to meet in person?
- this meeting is designed to be a decision space rather than a discussion space
- next action item: check-in with individual working groups
- what we if had a general meeting in 2 weeks
- this was the best spokescouncil meeting we've had in a long time and it's energizing