Oahu Intergroup Town Hall Meeting 2nd Edition Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020

“More questions than answers.”

MINUTES

Moderator Bob H. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer at 6:30 p.m. and 40-plus attendees in the Zoom “room.”
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He introduced co-host Adina M., Oahu Central Office manager and members of a security team assisting to keep the meeting free of intruders.

He explained that, in keeping with Tradition Four (“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups o AA as a whole.”), it is up to each group to determine when and whether they will return to face-to-face physical meetings. The task of this meeting is to offer information to groups to assist them in this process.

Bob presented helpful documents from trusted AA sources including questions groups might pose when discussing the issue in a Group Conscience. These documents are found on the web site, OahuCentralOffice.com, on the home page, under the tagline Reopening Meetings Town Hall. Groups are encouraged to consult these.

Among the materials is a reopening attention sign for meetings to copy and post that outline safe meeting practices (e,g, don’t attend if you’re ill, coughing, have a fever, etc.) for the information of arriving members. And there is a list of official governmental information sources to assure that groups are up to date on local laws and regulations and CDC postings. He cautioned groups to seek current information directly from such sources, and also to consider retaining legal or other expert counsel if deemed necessary.

Members were encouraged to share answers, solutions and practices enacted by their groups with Oahu Central Office (manager@oahucentraloffice.com). He noted that Adina M. is active in a national intergroup committee that is collecting such information to assist local groups.

Bob H. then opened the meeting to sharing.

A member of Sobriety Buzz said the church where his group meets is not itself meeting and would require the group to completely sanitize the room and so for now that meeting will continue to gather online only.

A member asked how to find out how many persons can meet together legally inside or outside. Bob H. directed her to the web site of the mayor's office because these numbers and meeting requirements change often.

A member, who was visiting from Idaho, was invited to share the Mainland experience. He said they are struggling with the same questions there. He asked a question that concerns him: How does a virtual meeting identity itself, report where its geographical center is. Bob H. noted that there are meetings who have no connection with a physical meeting. He directed them to the AA GSO Online Meeting list, which has existed since the days of bulletin boards and chat rooms. He encouraged meeting representatives to report their online meetings to Oahu Central Office by going to OahuCentralOffice.com to both the physical meeting guide (to report that the group is not meeting at its physical address at this time or that it's reopening and with what safety measures in place) and to the online meeting guide.

A member who a operates clean and sober house, in which residents are required to attend meetings regularly, asked how many physical meetings are listed currently on the Oahu Intergroup site? Bob directed them to the oahucentraloffice.com site.

Adina M. showed members the three meeting lists on the web site home page: O'ahu online meetings, O'ahu meetings temporarily closed, O'ahu day-by-day meeting list. She noted that, even if a meeting is gathering online, they must report a physical address in order to be officially listed.

A member asked about potential conflicts with Traditions 3 and 5 when state law sets limits on meeting size. Bob answered that there is no Tradition 3 conflict (we still admit anyone to open meetings and anyone who has a problem with alcohol to closed meetings) and that, in addressing Tradition 5, groups can address the question with creative thinking (for example, if meetings are limited to 10 people, a group in excess of 10 can break into a number of mini-meetings so long as there's room to respect social distancing). A member asked about

paper signing. Bob said he had no information. A member who operates a clean and sober house said people newly in recovery may be legally required to attend 30 meetings in 30 days but only signatures from meetings that are officially registered as in-person meetings on the Oahu Central Office web site are accepted by parole authority, courts, and such. Some clean and sober houses are holding their own in-house meetings and signing there. A member noted that signing, which has potential to be a disease vector, is a group conscience decision.

A member of X-Factah reported that that meeting is going to start meeting again this month. Members must be masked, maintain social distancing, not attend if ill. No coffee, literature, chairs, signing. Listing has been updated on oahucentraloffice.com.

A member from Iroquois Point Step said that that group is doing a hybrid meeting, with a physical beach meeting and a meeting via Zoom. Those meeting in person are masking, bringing your own chairs, coffee. No 7th Tradition, no literature, coins. Meeting is not currently listed to prevent too large a meeting.

A member of TYG reported that the meeting would have a Group Conscience Saturday to discuss these issues. They are talking about signing papers by means of a stamp, no hands on paper.

A member from Kalihi Sobriety said that, in response to a question, the mayor's office said AA meetings are considered event, not meetings. Events are allowed to have a greater number present within certain safety requirements. Kalihi Sobriety had a Group Conscience on the topic and decided to table the issue of returning to physical meetings until July.

A member of a Wake Up Call reported that the group is meeting temporarily at the Keyhole at Ala Moana Beach Park, M-F, 6:30-7:30 a.m. They do sign papers and observe the 7th Tradition, masks are mandatory, readings are from individual phones, they sit at tables and when there are more than 10 people, they start a new table.

A member reported that court papers may go digital, allowing them to be safely filed and verified by meeting secretaries. Community schools use this system.

Adina M. suggested that groups that are meeting "privately" (covertly, without being listed on the Oahu Central Office website) consider becoming listed because, by operating under the radar, they are missing the opportunity to reach the next suffering alcoholic.

A Kalihi Sobriety meeting member said that the group did discuss the issue of contact tracing. They were planning to have people at a table at the front door to take first names and phone

numbers upon entry and securing those papers for a period of time in case Covid cases were traced to the meeting. They had also suggested that members say they were at “a spiritual gathering” rather than specifying an AA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 with the responsibility statement.