

# OA Foot Steps Virtual Intergroup Meeting #09670 {OAFSVIG}

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 3PM EDT

## CALL TO ORDER:

Kullan opened the meeting at 3:00 PM EST

**ROLL CALL:** {Note: Cannot determine quorum as bylaws are not in place}

## Voting Members Present:

Rep: Kullan	Rep: Zelly	Rep: Paige L
Rep: Julie K	Rep: Carrie C	Rep: Diana S
Rep: Lisa G	Rep: Rebecca A	Rep: Saoirse
Rep: Jenn M	Rep: Meagan B	Rep: Brian
Rep: Val B	Rep: Bill G.	Rep: Amy
Rep: Alix Sandra	Rep: Amy A	

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Marc M. NYC

**Members Absent:** Sarah W.

## OPENING READINGS:

Serenity Prayer – read by {?}  
Twelve Steps – read by {?}  
Twelve Traditions – read by {?}  
Twelve Concepts – read by {?}

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

### Last VIG Meeting 4/19/2020

{?} made a motion to approve minutes  
{?} seconded the motion  
All in favor/None opposed  
**- MOTION PASSED**

## MOTION TO RECORD THE MEETING

Motion to record the meeting was made by Alix  
Seconded by {?}

**- MOTION PASSED** {recording of the meeting began from this point onwards}

## GROUP REPORTS:

- **Financial Report: {Val}**  
Motion: money to 10% to Region; 30% to world services until permanent policy could be put into place.  
Lisa seconded  
**- MOTION PASSED**
- **Milestone Committee: {Jenn}**  
Avril {Scotland} is completely out of 30-day chips, UK Store is not currently shipping. Jenn has been shipping world-wide – sent out five chips since last meeting.
- **Website Committee: {Julie}**  
Website Committee: Julie, Paige and Alix  
ZOOM2 set up on second account.  
Set up second Whatsapp group following last meeting  
190 members set up new group
- **Sponsor List Committee {Zelly}**  
A few names have been added, few names dropped off, about 5-6 requests per day, eight available sponsors. Good idea {Val} to add the region sponsor list email, added link to newcomer pack, Whatsapp rooms info – currently about eight available sponsors.
- **Bylaws committee {Diana}**  
Motion on the table today to form a formal committee, hopefully ratify bylaws in June, Kullan, Val and Diana working together to put together a draft of the bylaws. All is going well.
- **World Service Delegate Selection**

Zelly noted that this item was likely added from last month agenda, selection should be made in October, and we should be considering this as part of our prudent reserve. Will revisit later.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Tabled Motions:**

- a. **RE: The formation of an Announcements Only WhatsApp Group** – No one stood forward to open an announcement-only group on Whatsapp. Val was concerned about how this would work, logistically. Determined that if someone wanted to start an announcement group, they are welcome to do so. – end of discussion/no motion made.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Nominations for Service Positions:**

**Treasurer:** Val nominated by Julie; Bill Seconded; all in favour; - **MOTION PASSED**

**Secretary:** Janet P volunteered; nominated by Julie; seconded Bill; all in favour; - **MOTION PASSED**

**Vice Chair:** Bill nominated Diana as vice-chair; declined by Diana; Carrie volunteered; nominated by Diana , seconded by Lisa; all in favour; - **MOTION PASSED**

Saoirse suggested that we announce for service positions in the main groups/meetings. Our next formal elections would be July or June, hopefully after our bylaws have been instated [June], so we could canvass the groups for new leaders then. We need people to stand in temporarily until that time. Alix volunteered, but since she is currently official chair, she can't hold two positions. Val agreed to remain temporarily, and since there is no abstinence requirement now, anyone can fill any of these positions.

## **PENDING MOTIONS - New Motions {Bill offered to be timekeeper }**

### **1. Zoom2 Description Amendment:**

to include additional statement to include "Quiet Fellowship" as an expressed purpose of the room

**Pro:** Alix- did not clearly write original motion to include quiet fellowship, which had been an expressed purpose during the discussion of that motion, as an additional intended use of the new space. Keeping the room available for any required non-registered meetings.

**Con:** Diana – some confusion why we needed quiet fellowship verses non-registered meetings in terms of what room they are being held in

**Pro:** Julie – would personally attend quiet fellowship if she could, and knows it benefits a great many people.

**Con:** no further cons

**Pro:** Brian – meeting schedule is filling quick, holding workshops, business meetings, and other non-meeting activities, it gives additional forum. As long as it is not cost prohibitive.

**Con:** no further con

**Friendly Amendment:** none

Kullen shared poll options; - **MOTION PASSED**

**Point of Information:** Bill– when we ask for two pro or two con, we don't necessarily need this unless someone feels the need, we can go straight to a vote.

### **2. Establishing a By-Laws Committee**

We have done in practice, established a sub-committee for the VIG approval – pros or cons?

**Question:** Diana – wondered whether the same three on the committee, or a new committee to be formed?

**Pro:** Zelly – we are a big group, we are growing, we need bylaws... this is a good thing.

**Con:** none

**Pro:** none

**POLL:** - **MOTION PASSED**

**Suggestion:** Kullen - if you wish to join By-Laws committee, contact Kullen, Val, or Diana

**Point of Interest:** Need to hit the 'poll progress' button to view poll

### **3. Communication Methods:**

**Motion:** The VIG transition to using Email Lists to help navigate away from WhatsApp to facilitate engagement with representatives who don't have WhatsApp - to utilize existing email better. Discussion regarding Whatsapp vs email

**Pro:** Bill – in favour, he was unable to read the bylaws and all proposals and be up to speed, not always on top of game to view. Email is much more reliable

**Con:** Lisa – part of another intergroup but finds it so confusing, then 20-30 on same thread, they are all using

Whatsapp, they are relieved they are moved over. Suggesting Slack instead.

- **PAUSE** - 4PM EST: Bill made motion to extend the meeting 4pm by 20 minutes
- Zelly made friendly amendment to extend for ½ hour – 30 minutes
- GC taken; - **MOTION PASSED**

- **Continued discussion on emails** –

Kullen expressed the general desire to move away from the Whatsapp chat, and also reminded everyone there was a second motion to use slack on the tables

**Pro:** Julie – the Whatsapp group is not going to go away, the emails will be used to send specific information to the specific committee, web team, VIG, etc...

**Point of Clarification:** Carrie asked for a point of clarification; how this works... Kullen referred to the motion which included a comprehensive list of how this could work for us, i.e.: [reports@oafootsteps.com](mailto:reports@oafootsteps.com) – asked Alix to clarify, who used the bylaws committee example... [bylaws@oafootsteps.com](mailto:bylaws@oafootsteps.com) would be ideal to mail anything pertaining to that committee, so that it de-clutters other channels, and gets the information directly to those who require it. It was already set up last year but left unused until recently as we have started to grow, and these emails are proving useful to navigate all the various committees and services.

**Con:** Val – has cold sweats about getting a whole bunch of email. Worried about streams of emails as a method of conducting business, does not see how it is going to work. Whatsapp does loose the string, slack would be preferable. Except for sending reports, or emails for newcomers, etc... just not to use it as a tool.

**Pro:** Zelly – this is partially pro – point of clarification – one proposal of [chair@oafootsteps.com](mailto:chair@oafootsteps.com), [bylaws@oafootsteps.com](mailto:bylaws@oafootsteps.com) is one thing, moving VIG general communication to emails seems problematic and cumbersome. To avoid chains of emails, hard to follow. Calling for dedicated emails to get information to the right people, but keeping day to day operations either on Whatsapp or slack.

**Con:** Meagan – scary to move everything from Whatsapp onto email and things can escalate quickly, keeping Whatsapp and slack to have more informal dialogue.

**Friendly Amendment:** Julie - To establish dedicated emails, but to keep operations on each committee's choice of platforms for their day to day operations on whatever platform they prefer: Whatsapp Slack, etc... whatever form they wish to use to be decided by the committee.

**Friendly Amendment:** Alix - agreeing dedicated emails; but allowing the actual committees to determine for themselves how they would wish to operate

**Friendly Amendment:** Zelly –that today we only vote on establishing dedicated emails for roles and committees within OAFS, and table how we regulate our VIG Group, so that we have more time to explore Slack and/or other methods.

**Friendly Amendment:** Alix: slack, discussion board format, explored multiple options... varying levels of proficiency and technology, not all are useable by all VIG members

**Motion:** Diana made motion to table for next meeting in interest of time – Val Seconded

- **MOTION PASSED**

5. **WhatsApp Overflow Procedure**

Urgent attention required; proposal is a strategy

**Point of information:** Diana –Starting a new Whatsapp group is registered as a non-real-time meeting – This is not a VIG decision –

**Con:** none

**Pro:** Julie- when that group is full people will ask us what we are doing about it, the web team is responsible to add links that work to allow people to join.

**Con:** Diana - we already have two Whatsapp groups that are not being managed – there are admins but no reps – posting non-oa literature, and even OA-literature, no guidelines, adding a new group that is not managed is not a good idea

**Point of information:** Zelly – isn't this motion to develop a strategy, but not necessarily a new group unless it is needed. Confirmed by Kullen, yes this is a strategy

**Con:** none

**Pro:** Lisa – desperate need for another chat, it is progress not perfection – doing a fantastic job, could it be better, yes! But it will add more service opportunities... there is a need.

**Con:** none

**Pro:** Paige, we did have rep for the first Whatsapp group, but they stepped down – it was represented

**Con:** none

**Pro:** Brian – if the webteam wants to develop a strategy that is all it is, let them do it

**Con:** none

**Friendly amendment:** Meagan– if we are having problems calling it a meeting, could we just call it a chat. Since we are not following the format for non-registered-meetings - not applicable since it IS a registered meeting

**Point of Interest:** Paige – non-real-time meetings are a cluster of announcements it used to be more of a non-real-time meeting, but it has changed. Needs to send out moderation every single day

**POLL:** - **MOTION PASSED**

- **PAUSE - Motion:** Time is 4:15pm - Motion to table rest of motions –  
Meagan made motion to table – Val seconded - move on to security  
-- **MOTION PASSED**

**Rest of the motions tabled:**

5. Creation of Wed Team Sub-Committee - **TABLED**

6. The Treasurer, Large Meeting Rep, Meeting Coordinators, and Chair be given the log in information for OA Footsteps Zoom accounts. - **TABLED**

7. The VIG transition to using Slack for discussions, organized by subjects - **TABLED**

8. Both Zoom Accounts be updated as being owned by the OA Foot Steps VIG with the treasury PayPal being listed as the only payment method on the accounts - **TABLED**

9. Motions will be made using the Motion Template format - **TABLED**

**Open Discussion on Security:**

**Julie** – a lot of features that come with Zoom – ie: muting chat, waiting room, would have helped with recent issue – not allowed to unmute themselves – leadership training provides extra security measures for leaders to utilize – a security only hand

**Brian** – was present during incident, spiritual bouncer in this and other fellowships, yes there are protocols that can be put into place, ie: passwords, waiting room, - each meeting is autonomous, we can put together guidelines, but each meeting needs to use the tools at their own discretion – removal for offensive posts – we could have chair for meeting and security host – protocols can be put into place.

Marc – agrees with Julie measures can be taken to help avoid this situation – was completely blocked out of meeting, unable to join – proper training needs to be provided – host and security, as separate roles. Would be grateful to be included on committee also.

**Motion: Diana** - To form new Zoom Room Security Committee

Initiate a new Whatsapp group called security

To put together suggested guidelines for each meeting so they can take measures to protect their own meeting according to their own group conscience – to report back to the VIG with their findings in regards to Zoom Bombing – disruptors, utilizing features like: Waiting room, mute chat, security training, motion to form a committee, Bill, Brian, Carrie and Marc agreed to be on the committee. Unable to determine any immediate security measures until after we receive the newly formed committee’s findings. – Will put together proposal for us to determine what to do as a VIG

- **MOTION PASSED**

**Motion to Close the Meeting: 4:35 PM EST** - Zelly

Seconded by Val

-- **MOTION PASSED**

**Serenity Prayer**

**Recording length 1:01:26**

**Chair for next meeting:** not determined

**Date for next meeting:** June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020