

The GTFF Needs Clear Voting Rules

The proposed bylaw amendments for article 11 are not suitable for the GTFF. We must have a clear, well-defined process for decision making.

Simply removing Robert's Rules, without any alternative, leaves the GTFF with no way to make decisions. *Every* decision then lies with a meeting's chair as there are no guidelines, and no accountability, for how to do business. Unfortunately, the proposed alternative still lacks specificity. Decisions are made only if there is a “clear” majority. Even with a majority, if there is “close to a tie”, decisions are still not made. What constitutes “clear” or “close”? Again, this is at the discretion of the chair. They get to decide a vote's result – not the voters.

I do not intend to question the integrity of the GTFF leadership, present, past or future, but we must have clear guidelines for decision making. Annually, the GTFF hires an auditor to review our finances. The auditor goes through the minutes of all meetings to track down financial decisions: why money is spent, which “pool” of money (fair-share or full member) was used, and how budget lines were adjusted. The auditor requires clear decisions and has criticized note taking in the past. An unclear voting process will make that much worse and their job more difficult. Additionally, the GTFF has been sued at least twice, by both members and non-members. If this were to happen again, the GTFF needs clear rules so that it can protect itself and its leaders, employees and members.

So, I encourage you to vote against the proposed bylaw amendments for article 11. I do not love Robert's Rules. They have many problems. But the proposed amendments do not offer a viable alternative decision making process for the GTFF.

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