

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: irenen@mindspring.com
Cc: [Cyndy Holda](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Shooting The Breeze - November 10, 2008
Date: 11/12/2008 09:17 AM
Attachments: [CAHA_Groundrules_Final010408.doc](#)

Hi Irene,

See below for text from ground rules (also attached in full). Consensus can be blocked by even one dissenting member, but consensus could also be reached if those who disagree "abstain" or "stand aside". I may not have made this point clearly enough during the Round Table, but this is the "stand aside" provision that I mentioned could allow an agreement even if less than 29 members voted in favor of something.

V. Decision Making

A. The Committee will operate by consensus, which the Committee defines as unanimous concurrence of the principals, or in the absence of the principal, his or her alternate. **Members may also “abstain” or “stand aside” and not offer their consent, but refrain from blocking agreement and will thus also refrain from future negative comment or action on the consensus.** Abstaining/standing aside members shall not be counted in determining if consensus has been reached.

B. Members should not block or withhold consensus unless they have serious reservations with the approach or solution that is proposed for consensus. Consent means that members can at least “accept,” however reluctantly, the package agreement that emerges.

C. If both the principal and the alternate are absent from a meeting in which consensus will be deliberated or decided, the absences will be equivalent to not dissenting.

D. If representatives disagree with the approach or solution proposed, they should make every effort to offer an alternative satisfactory to all members.

E. All consensus agreements reached during the negotiations will be assumed to be tentative agreements until members of the Committee reach final agreement. Once final consensus is achieved, Committee members may not thereafter withdraw their consensus.



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To "mike_murray" <mike_murray@nps.gov>
cc "Cyndy at home" <cyndyholda@yahoo.com>

11/11/2008 05:15 PM

Subject FW: Shooting The Breeze - November 10, 2008

Please respond to irenen@mindspring.com
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Mike:

I presume Jim is probably right about this and I need to correct it in my column, but I wanted to check with you first.

Thanks,

Irene

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> [Original Message]
> From: <(>>
> To: <comments@islandfreepress.org>
> Date: 11/11/2008 3:18:36 PM
> Subject: Shooting The Breeze - November 10, 2008
>
> Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted
by
> () on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 15:18:33
>

>
> Name: Jim Harris
>
> Email: longcaster@charter.net
>

> City: Southern Shores
>
> State: NC
>
> Comments: Irene, the following statement is not quite correct;
>
> "However, an alternative put forth by the committee must be
agreed to by
all 29 members. The group decided at its first meeting that
consensus means
that all of the members must agree. In other words, the majority
does not
rule. It's all or nothing."
>
> Any member of the committee can "abstain" form voting. A
consensus is no
"no votes" it could be 20 members abstain from voting and have
consensus
reached, with the remaining 9 members. It never was "all or
nothing". If
the quote is from Murray, he needs to be reminded about
"abstention".
>
> Jim Harris
>
>

>