A FLOW CHART FOR THE USE OF CONSENSUS TO MAKE DECISIONS

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

Date of the meeting
Facilitator's name and phone number
Note keeper's name and phone number
Time keeper's name

7:00 to 7:10 - Introductions, agenda review

7:10 to 7:30 - Food collection for the week.

7:30 to 7:45 - Cooks and kitchen locations.

7:45 to 8:00 - Servers, literature table staff and cultural programs at the meals.

8:00 to 8:15 - This week's clean up schedule.

8:15 to 8:30 - Solidarity actions to support and provide food for.

8:30 to 8:45 - Promotion for group with flyers, literature tables, media, web postings and emailing.

8:45 to 9:00 - Financial report on income and expenses and benefit concerts and events.

9:00 to 9:15 - Communications report of groups emails, phone messages and mail.

9:15 to 9:30 - Critique meeting, restate tasks each has agreed to do during meeting and choose date, time, location and facilitator of next meeting.

FOOD NOT BOMBS
P.O. Box 424 - Arroyo Seco, NM 87514 USA
1-800-884-1136
www.foodnotbombs.net

FIRST MEETING

INTRODUCE PROPOSAL → ASK FOR QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY PROPOSAL

FIRST DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL

CALL FOR CONCERNS

RESTATE PROPOSAL → ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF RESTATED PROPOSAL

SEND TO SECOND MEETING OR COMMITTE → ASK FOR QUESTIONS TO IMPROVE PROPOSAL

SECOND MEETING

REINTRODUCE PROPOSAL → ASK FOR QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY PROPOSAL

SECOND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL

CALL FOR CONCERNS → ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF RESTATED PROPOSAL

RESTATE REFINED PROPOSAL → PROPOSAL IS RESTATED

ASK FOR STAND ASIDES OR BLOCKS → ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF RESTATED PROPOSAL

SEEING NO BLOCKS THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED → IF BLOCKED OR HAS MANY STAND ASIDES RESTATE PROPOSAL AND SEND TO NEXT MEETING OR TO COMMITTE TO IMPROVE
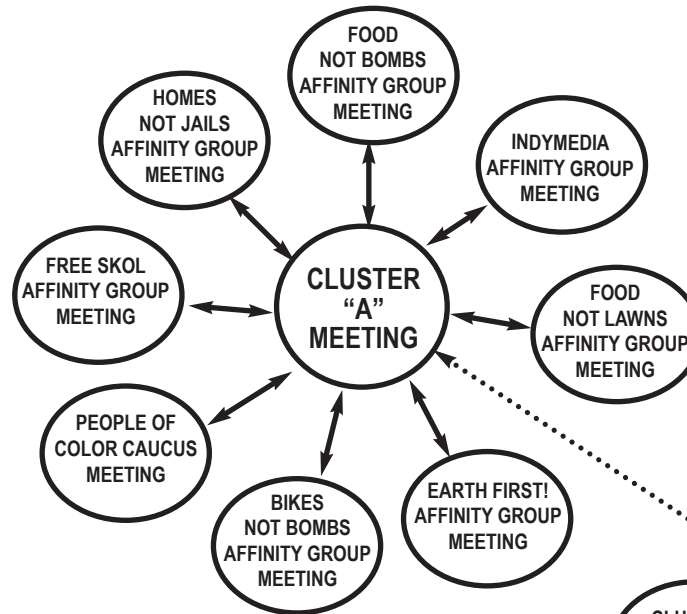
THE PROPOSAL IS IMPLEMENTED

REGULAR MEETINGS USING CONSENSUS

Regular meetings using the consensus process provide access for everyone to participate fully in the activities of your group. The consensus process encourages creativity, equality and a commitment to the implementation of every decision. Consensus encourages the adoption of the decision that most reflects the desires of everyone in your group seeking to adjust each proposal based on the ideas of everyone concerned. Give each proposal a couple of meetings to consider to create the most effective decisions. The consensus process can be the foundation for social change in your community. After years of practicing the use of consensus your group will be prepared to fill the power vacuum created by the collapse of the current political and economic system.

Introduce the proposal, open a discussion on the proposal, ask for concerns, restate the proposal based on the input from the discussion and ask if there are any blocks or stand asides. If there are no blocks and few stand asides the proposal is adopted. Some one should only block if they believe the proposal is contrary to the principles of the group. People stand aside if they are not excited or able to help implement the proposal. If there are a number of stand asides or blocks find out what changes would be needed to lift the block or stand asides. One or more blocks stops a proposal from being adopted. Stand asides do not stop the group from consensus.
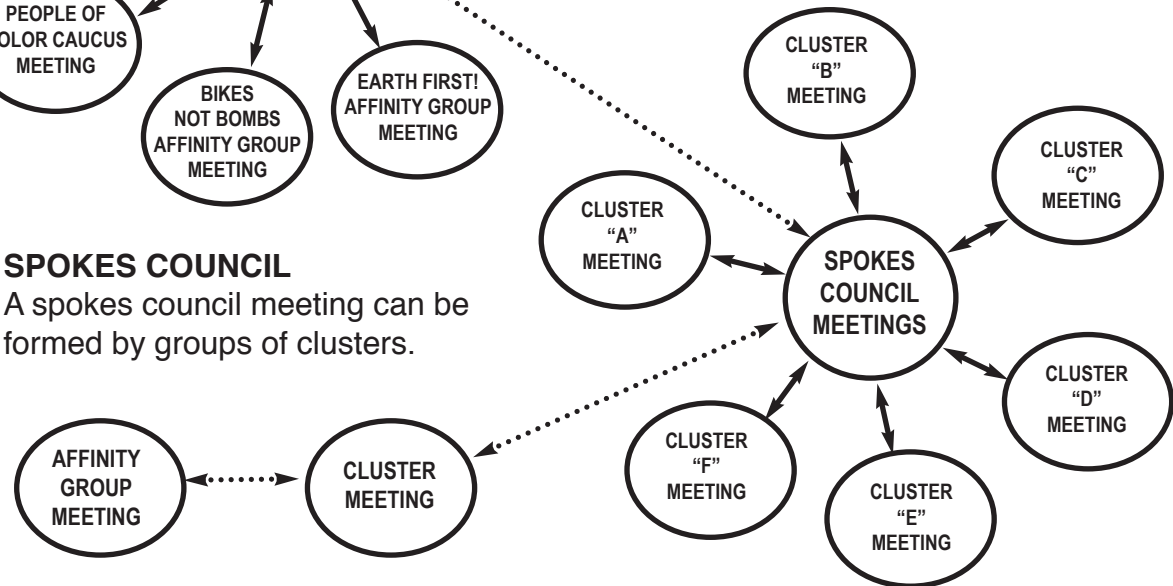
COMMUNITY WIDE DECISION MAKING USING CONSENSUS

Each affinity group sends their proposals to their cluster meeting of all local affinity groups. Representatives of each affinity group inroduce proposals adopted by their affinity groups. Onec each affinity group comes to consensus on the proposals adopted at the cluster meeting those proposals may be sent by the cluster to the spoks council meetings. The proposals adopted by the spokes council can be sent to the cluster for adoption than back to the affinity group. If the affinity groups come to consensus on the proposal it can be sent back to the cluster and spokes council where it isimplemented by the entire community. Affinity groups send two or more people to the cluster and spokes council meetings.

CLUSTER MEETINGS
A cluster could be affinity groups in a town, state or other geographic areas. It could also be affinity groups working in the same or related tasks like food, art, music, first aid, media or protest.

SPOKES COUNCIL
A spokes council meeting can be formed by groups of clusters.

HOMES NOT JAILS AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — FOOD NOT BOMBS AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — INDYMEDIA AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — FREE SKOL AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — CLUSTER "A" MEETING — FOOD NOT LAWNS AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — PEOPLE OF COLOR CAUCUS MEETING — BIKES NOT BOMBS AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — EARTH FIRST! AFFINITY GROUP MEETING

CLUSTER "B" MEETING — CLUSTER "C" MEETING — CLUSTER "A" MEETING — SPOKES COUNCIL MEETINGS — CLUSTER "D" MEETING — CLUSTER "F" MEETING — CLUSTER "E" MEETING

AFFINITY GROUP MEETING — CLUSTER MEETING