

Parliamentarian's Report to the DCCW Board

November 19, 2022

Following are five more facts for your Council meetings, a continuation of the parliamentarian's report from September 17:

16. When the treasurer gives a report, it is *received*, meaning that it was heard. This does not give formal approval by the group because a treasurer's report cannot, and must not, be *approved* or *accepted* unless the books have been audited. Following an audit by two or more members, the auditor's report is then *approved* or *accepted*.
17. An *ex officio* ("out of office") member of a board or committee is someone who is a member by virtue of some other office or position that he or she holds, for example, our Spiritual Advisors. Another example is if the Finance Committee is to be comprised of the treasurer and three other members, the treasurer is said to be an *ex officio* member of the finance committee, since she is automatically a member by virtue of the fact that she hold the office of treasurer.
18. *Ex officio* members of boards and committees hold the same rights and privileges as do all other members, including the right to vote.
19. The president may not stop debate when she thinks it has gone on long enough. Usually debate dies out on its own, but, if it goes on too long, a member may move the Previous Question, which is a motion to stop debate. That motion requires a second and a 2/3 "aye" vote to pass, since it interferes with one of the rights – the right to speak – of the members.
20. A large Council meeting can efficiently discuss a hot-button issue by using informal discussion. A member moves to discuss the problem informally by dividing the assembly into groups of 4-6. This is seconded, opened for discussion, and voted on. The president then tells members to quickly turn to their neighbors and discuss the issue. Each group selects a spokeswoman and discusses the issue. At the end of a specified time, the discussion is concluded by saying, "I move we rise and report." This motion is seconded and voted on. Then each spokeswoman reports the findings of each small group's discussion. This helps members of a large group to more easily participate in discussions and allows them the opportunity to exercise their right to voice their opinion, without engaging in side conversations when a member has the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Pond, DCCW Parliamentarian