
STRONGER BOARDS

Webinar Three: New Approaches and Burning Questions



New approaches & burning questions

- Your board successes & questions
- Some common board challenges
- Four practical ideas to try
- Strive to work more strategically

If there is one thing...

- I like about my board it is...
- I would change about my board it would be...



Your successes and burning 🔥 questions

- What has your board tried?
 - Successfully
 - Unsuccessfully (it did not take)
 - I know that some other groups....
- What questions do you have?
 - We would like to try...
 - I am curious about....



Volunteer boards often report that:



- We do not get through the meeting agenda
- Someone regularly takes up too much “airtime”
- We have a board member that never shows up
- Committees are not doing their job
- Board members come to meetings “unprepared”
- We have few young/new people on the board
- Often, we are not able to make “quorum”

Idea 1: Create a board calendar/annual work plan

- Every month
 - Financial report
 - Committee reports
- Not every month
 - Review of board member terms
 - Recruitment of new board members
 - AGM and associated RJSC filing
 - Annual budget - approval
 - Trail improvement/maintenance goals for the year
 - Membership & fundraising goals
 - Review of policies - Pick 4
 - Bylaw review (one every 3-4 years)
 - Meeting evaluation (2 x year)



Board calendar/work plan (fill in each box)

<p>January (Jan 14) Goals for the year</p>	<p>February (Feb 15) Board recruitment Grant application</p>	<p>March (March 10) Approve budget</p>
<p>April (April 15) Form committees</p>	<p>May AGM Outline goals</p>	<p>June</p>
<p>July (No Meeting)</p>	<p>August</p>	<p>September Trail public event</p>
<p>October Board and member pot luck</p>	<p>November New trail brochure Review bylaws</p>	<p>December (No Meeting)</p>

Idea 2: Change up your meeting agendas

- Welcome and meeting goals
- Approval of minutes
- Special Item/ Annual Goal 1
- Special Item/Annual Goal 2
- Routine Item 1
 - Committee Reports
- Routine Item 2
- Financial Report



Idea 3: Raise up your board's leadership

- Discuss the job of the chair
 - Chair's role in meetings (how to improve our meetings a little)
 - Chair's role outside meetings (preparing for meetings, focus on goals)
 - How do we make the chair's role more "doable"?
- Have this conversation when "recruiting" someone to serve as chair.
- Have the conversation out in the open
 - It is really about the board not just the chair
- Use the conversation to create a written chairperson position description
- Ensure that the chair is not a one-person job
 - Who else is part of the leadership team (secretary, vice chair)?

Idea 4: Invite outside guests to your meetings



One or two meetings a year



Guests help build trail communities



Guests make others more aware and appreciative of your work

See: **Guests in the Boardroom** (2017) on Governing Good

Strive to work more strategically

- Boards really benefit from having annual goals
 - Trail development goals
 - Community use and awareness goals
 - **Board effectiveness goals**
 - Fundraising/membership goals
- Keep your strategic plan (or other goals) in front of the board
 - Look at them more than once a year
 - Goals can be meeting agenda items (one per meeting)
 - List goals at the bottom of the board's agenda
 - Use goals in helping you recruit new board members



More questions?



Thanks
