

Structure of Advisory Committee Decision Making (Governance)

Option 1: Roberts Rules of Order

Group decision making process where majority opinion rules, often used in government, non-profit and community organizations. Decisions are made by making a motion, with another member supporting (seconding) the motion, discussion on the motion, then a vote on the motion.

See sheet on Roberts Rules of Order

Option 2: Consensus Model

Discussion continues until the group reaches consensus on an issue.

“**Consensus decision** making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with.

This makes sure that all opinions, ideas and concerns are taken into account. By listening closely to each other, the group aims to come up with proposals that work for everyone.

Consensus is neither compromise nor unanimity - it aims to go further by weaving together everyone's best ideas and most important concerns - a process that often results in surprising and creative solutions, inspiring both the individual and the group as whole.”

<http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/consensus>

See consensus flow chart on next page

<http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/consflow.pdf>