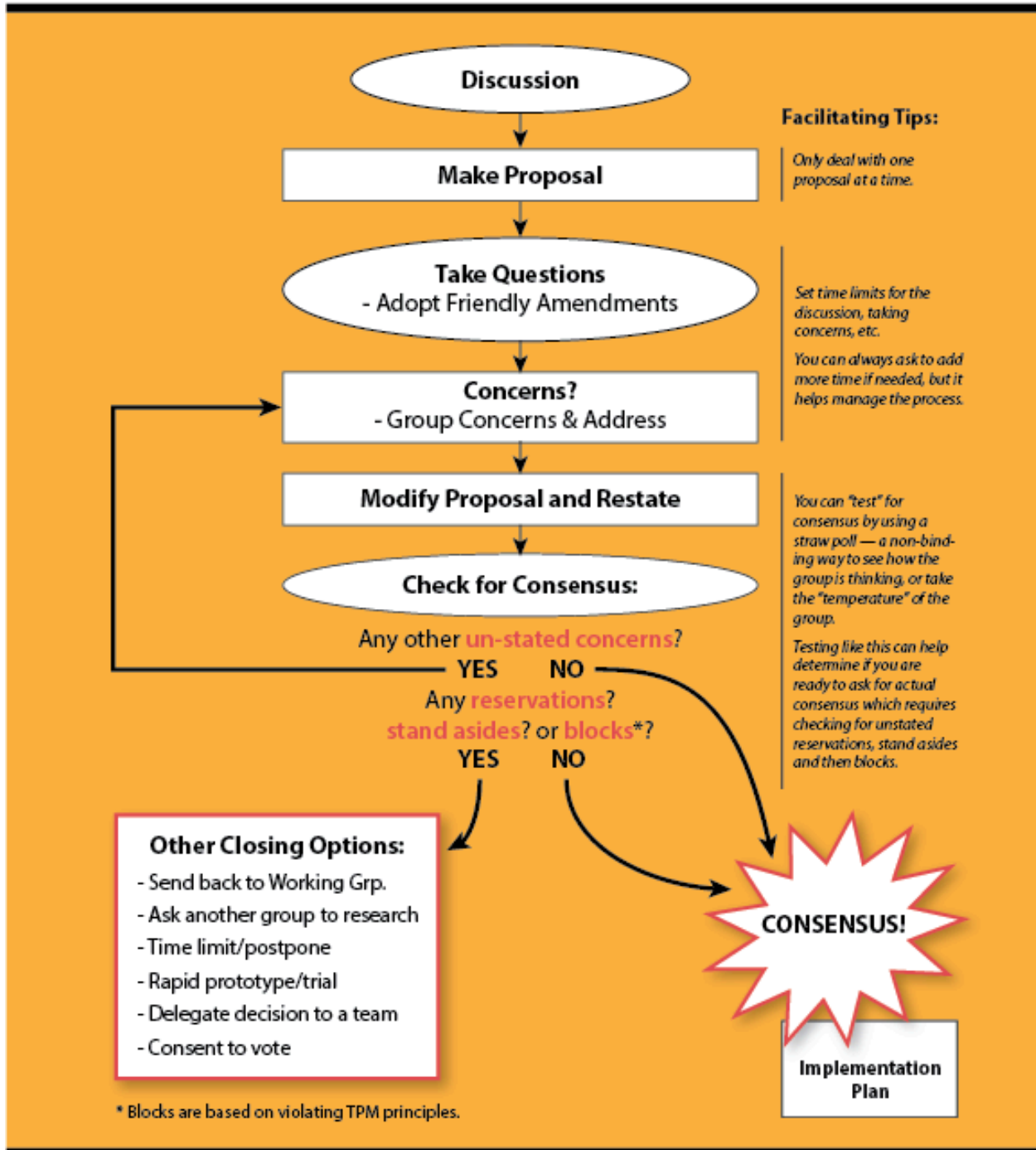
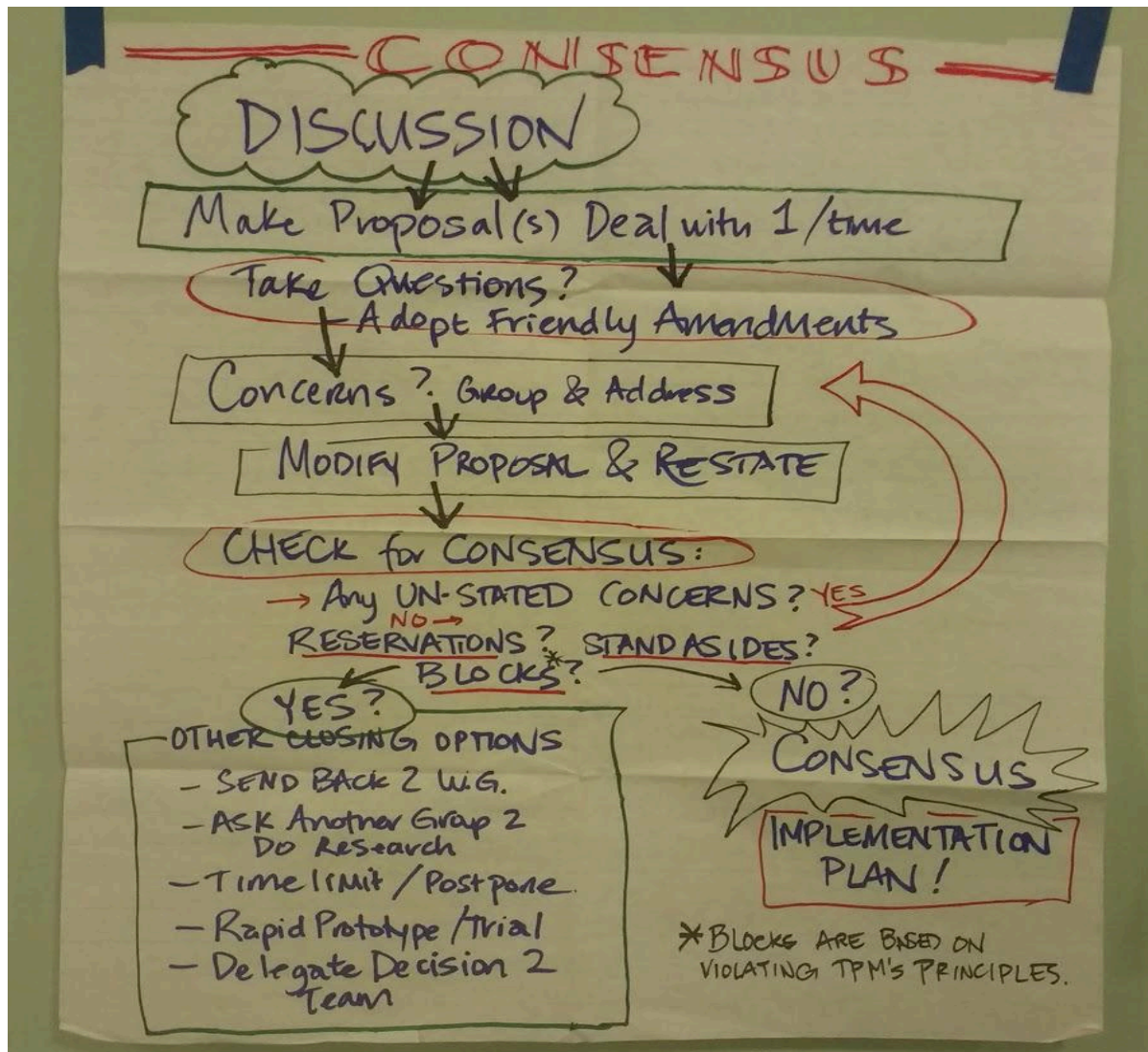


Proposed CONSENSUS PROCESS for #SHUTDOWNDC



CONSENSUS





This proposed process and structure is a SPOKESCOUNCIL model. In a Spokes council, each working group/committee has a designated person who rotates (committee members who agree as a group who is to represent them at each spokes council meeting). Group decisions for the entire TP Mobilization are made by the Spokespeople at the Spokes Council. If there is a decision needing discussion or input, the Spokesperson can convene with their committee/working group to discuss it and send a Spokesperson who can represent that discussion at the next Spokes council meeting. This can also be done real-time in a big meeting, whereby the spokes person can turn to the assembled members of their committee to caucus and discuss and then return to the Council meeting for a decision.

It is our goal to share power, and to lead collectively with a consensus model.

RESOURCES/Background definitions:

UK group Seeds For Change, info about "Affinity Groups" and Spokescouncils: [HERE](#)

Affinity groups, quick consensus decision making and spokescouncils have one thing in common. They all offer a liberating way of organizing – anti-hierarchical, participatory, supportive, directly democratic, empowering, sustainable, creative... Liberating because you work as equals, and liberating because of the things you can achieve together. This is all about creating a world where we don't need leaders and laws. It's about direct democracy. If you also use affinity organizing to plan and carry out effective direct action or events, you'll be a good step along the way to creating a better world, inside and outside of your group.

what's a spokescouncil?

A spokescouncil is a space in which affinity/working groups communicate and coordinate about their distinct activities and make joint decisions as necessary. All affinity/working groups are welcome at spokescouncil meetings.

The types of decisions made at the spokescouncil will be decided on by the group, and may include: coordination of activities, decisions on spending money or using resources or timing of events; communication systems; rapid response protocol, etc.

Spokescouncils are open to all members of all affinity groups and all present may speak during discussions, but final decisions are made by "spokes", one from each group. During the meeting, spokes can check-in constantly with members of their group to remain accountable.

what's an affinity group/working group?

An affinity or working group is a small group of people who come together to prepare for and take direct action and/or agree to work together on specific issues over time. Working groups are organized in a nonhierarchical and autonomous way, there are no hierarchical leaders-- everyone is encouraged to share leadership roles-- and everyone has an equal voice and responsibility. Sometimes, these groups are formed just for one action, but often they are ongoing groups that organize and take part in action/events/support work over a number of years. Affinity and Working groups work best when people have something in common (the 'affinity' bit). This affinity might be where you live, the issues you want to campaign on, the tactics you want to use or a particular skill you have to offer (e.g. action medics), or a mixture of all of these.

what's a formal consensus process?

Consensus Decision-Making is a process for groups to generate widespread agreement in a way that respects the contributions of all participants.

Consensus decision making is a process used by groups seeking to generate widespread levels of participation and agreement. There are variations among different groups regarding the degree of agreement necessary to finalize a group decision. The process of group deliberation, however, has many common elements that are definitive of consensus decision making. These include: Inclusive*Participatory *Collaborative* Agreement Seeking: *Cooperative
More info [HERE](#)

