

How the Peacock Got Its Feathers

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Council of the Birds



Purpose

The Council of the Birds sets the vision for the forest community and adopts guiding values that reflect that vision and the mission of the Council. Council members develop the vision and determine how to achieve it.

Governance

The Council will meet once a month to discuss and remain abreast of activities, interests, and concerns in the forest community. In the event of an emergency or matter of a critical nature, the Council will gather within 12 to 24 hours of members being informed depending on the degree of the issue.

Council members do not have any power to act or make decisions, decrees, rulings, or resolutions as separate individuals. While an individual member may introduce or propose an alternate resolution, the whole Council makes final decisions. All outcomes are decided upon as a collective body through a formal assembly process. This means that all must accept a majority decision rendered.

Council members who feel strongly about an issue and who do not have a conflict of interest can debate it by presenting a well thought out and researched case during discussion of the issue. If the result of the debate is not in favor of the individual member that member should graciously accept it. That member's dissent will be acknowledged and recorded in the assembly minutes.

Role of Council Members

Encouraging the forest community to endorse and follow the vision and mission of the Council requires impartiality and leadership skills. Council members offer ideas, suggestions, reasons, and solutions to dilemmas at council meetings. Members must believe in the importance of achieving a strong sense of cohesiveness and shared purpose in and for the community. The needs and wishes of the forest often change, therefore members must be prepared to respond appropriately and expeditiously to these changes. This includes periodically reviewing the mission and vision of the Council.

Participation

Unlike other boards, members of the Council of the Birds are not an elected body. Members represent and work in the best interests of all forest animals, not only those who would vote for them.

Involvement in the Council is open to any species. Individuals interested in becoming members may join and fill vacant seats if they desire to provide leadership and guidance in the forest. Sitting members then vote for a Lead council member through a formal process.

Council Community Communications (CCC)

Council members recognize the importance of two-way communication with their fellow forest animals to understand their views on various issues. The forest animals convey their concerns, needs, and wishes to the members and, in turn, the members impart information to the forest community regarding decisions of the Council and subsequent course of actions.

Guiding Principles

- Be informed of and evaluate community needs.
- Be available and responsive to forest animals who raise issues or concerns.
- Establish priorities for identified needs.
- Gather information.
- Participate in and support local events and functions.
- Contribute to and encourage involvement in other civic duties of the forest.
- Communicate in open settings or forums or through the *Tropical Times*.

