

## APPENDIX C: BACKGROUND ON OPEN SPACE MEETINGS

An open space meeting is based on a set of four principles and the basic law – the law of two feet. Outlined below are the principles and law of two feet:

- i. **“Whoever comes are the right people”** acknowledges that the only people really qualified or able to do great work on any issue are those who really care, and freely choose to be involved.
- ii. **“Whenever it starts is the right time”** recognizes that spirit and creativity don’t run on the clock, so while we’re here, we’ll all keep a vigilant watch for great ideas and new insights, which can happen at anytime.
- iii. **“Whatever happens is the only thing that could have”** allows everyone to let go of the could haves and should haves, so that we can give our full attention to the reality of what is happening, is working, and is possible right now. And finally,
- iv. **“When it’s over, it’s over”** acknowledges that you never know just how long it’ll take to deal with a given issue, and reminds us that getting the work done is more important than sticking to an arbitrary schedule.

The Law of Two Feet simply states that at any time during the open space meeting an individual is not learning or contributing, they have the right and the responsibility to move and find another breakout session.

For more information on open space meetings please visit: [www.openspaceworld.org](http://www.openspaceworld.org)