

Hi everybody. There has been talk for some time about creating some project governance, and I have had a concern regarding the procedure for approving expenditure of project funds. As of now, people just ask me for reimbursement, and with many new people around, sometimes I feel like I need some other responsible person to authorize the payment.

In order to take this conversation to a level that is a bit more developed, I have drafted up a few "By-Laws" for us to follow regarding the disbursement of project funds. Please accept these as a starting point and not necessarily a suggestion by me to do things a particular way. This is really just a starting point to get the conversation going, so I won't be offended if any of you hate any or all of these things.

Also, I have to make clear that I am in no way asking that these items apply to the development of the software itself. I think there is general consensus that that part of the project works well, and the last thing we want to become is a mini Debian.

Anyway, read and comment.

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Greg

Proposed By-Laws of the Amarak Project

The Amarak Project is an unincorporated association of individuals working to develop the music digital music player called Amarak. In order to create some governance of the project for the purpose of raising and disbursing funds, the following rules are adopted by a majority of the project participants. In no way is the creation of these governance procedures to be used to direct the development of the project. The purpose is to facilitate the expenditure of funds in a way that furthers the goals of the project and for no other purpose.

1. Advisory Board - An Advisory Board of three people shall be elected by the project participants that are eligible to vote as outlined below. The term of the Advisory Board shall be one year. Nothing precludes someone from serving multiple terms.

2. Treasurer - In addition to the three member Advisory Board, the participants eligible to vote shall select a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer to be custodian of the project's funds. Preferably, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer should reside one in the US and the other in the EU so as to facilitate efficient transfer of funds and to minimize bank fees. The Treasurer, or the Assistant Treasurer will disburse funds as authorized by the Advisory Board. At least 1 member of the Advisory Board must authorize shall authorize disbursements up to \$200 and at least 2 members shall authorize disbursements in excess of \$200.

3. Eligibility to Vote - In order to be eligible to vote for the aforementioned positions, the participant must be active in the project. Activity will be defined as _____ in the case of a programmer/developer and _____ in the case of a non-developer.

4. Quorum - At least 2/3 of Eligible Voters must cast a ballot for a valid election result to be declared.

5. Annual Meeting - The vote shall be held at an annual meeting, which may be in person or in a virtual setting such as the #amarok-devel channel on freenode. If for some reason the meeting is delayed, the previous elected representatives shall continue to serve until the meeting can be held.

6. Resignation or Removal - An elected participant may resign at any time. An elected participant may be removed from office by a 2/3 majority of the eligible voting members. A petition signed by at least 3 active participants must be presented to cause a vote for removal to be made. In case of a resignation or removal from office, an interim replacement to serve until the next annual election shall be elected in the same manner as during the annual election.

7. Books and Records - The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall maintain books and records sufficient to document the receipt and disbursement of project funds. A report shall be made quarterly summarizing the receipt and disbursement of funds as well as the current balance of available funds.

8. Project Bank Accounts - The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer authorized to maintain accounts with a bank, Paypal or other financial service in order to protect funds from loss and enable the efficient disbursement of funds to reimburse project participants around the world at the least cost for expenses that are necessary to the project.