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## **OCF Joint Bylaws/Elections Committee Meeting**

**Monday, January 22, 2024 – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

### **Present:**

**Bylaw committee** – Arna Shaw, Lawrence Taylor, Diane Albino, Heidi Doscher, Teresa Vaughn

**Election committee** – Stephen Diercouff, Merrill Levine, Barb Edmunds, Michael Schulze, Jen Lin Hodgden (Heidi is also on this committee.)

### **Agenda review**

**Discussion Items** - The Board moved for the committees to meet together to work on the items (below) that Stephen brought to them.

1. Changing the method of selection Directors to election by **direct ballot**,

- We are using a proxy authorization. We would move towards a Direct Ballot (which will help if we move to voting online). The lawyer already worked on this for the Special Election last spring.

2. Establishing a **minimum age for OCF membership**,

- It is currently tied to wristbands but let's remove that so that if we begin to require wristbands for 6 year olds we don't have a conflict here. Or if we stop using wristbands.

3. Clarifying the **election certification process** and the effective beginning of terms of newly-elected Directors,

- We need a clear policy on when the term of office begins. We are currently (without a policy) having the Board ratify the election at the November board meeting. We need to add this to the Bylaws or Policies to formalize it. (or formalize something different).

4. Changing the **voting participation requirement** to count voting in any election vs. only the annual election as fulfilling the requirement,

- In the last election we purged voters who hadn't voted in the past previous elections (but they had voted in a Special Election and that didn't count). So we could add voting in Special Elections to help qualify people.

5. Changing the **petition signature requirement** from a hard number to a percentage of members voting in the last election,

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6. Setting a **time limit to submit the required number of signatures for a petition** (Policy maybe?).

- What happens when people turn in a petition with not enough signatures they can just go out and get more? Perhaps there should be a time limit. Have a process to follow that ends a petition so it isn't just hanging there. Example, I have a proposal to change something and take three years to get signatures but by then it is irrelevant? So a time limit might make sense.

## Discussion -

Item #1 - Discussion included support for this as a good move for the future. All present were in favor. Stephen will work on Bylaw language for us to look at, for the next meeting.

Item #3 - It was felt that this goes along with #1 so it was discussed next. While there is support for codifying the process that has been used for a long time, there was also support for the idea that Board members are members as soon as they are elected. If there is a need for an emergency meeting between the election and the next regular

Board meeting, new Board members would help with decisions rather than outgoing members. Issues of confidentiality, wanting to honor/thank outgoing Board members, and appreciating the "ceremony" of the changing board were also discussed. The old board could approve the minutes of their last meeting and certify (ratify?) the election. Arna will work on language that includes compromise for the next meeting.

Item #2 - Stephen has done some research on voting age and found that 16 year olds who are able to vote are more likely (than 18 year olds) to continue to be voters in the future. We, as a

group, are in favor of recommending age 16 as the age requirement for becoming an OCF member. Article V, section 2a would need the addition of “who has attained the age of 16” added to it. We think this will trigger Article XI, #2 (lawyer can confirm) as it is a change in the rights of membership that would require membership to ratify this change.

We had planned to discuss 3 items at this meeting and 3 at the next but we reached consensus fairly quickly and decided to keep going.

Item #4 - Unanimous yes on this one, recommend changing “annual” to “any” in the Bylaw language.

Item #5 - Stephen suggested 8% of members who voted at the previous annual meeting. There was concern that when things are going well, fewer people vote. We decided to recommend 8% but not less than 100 signatures. The number of signatures required for petitions would be posted shortly after an election.

Item #6 - It was decided that this does not need to be in the Bylaws as it is a policy decision that the Election committee could decide and post with other election procedures.

**Next Meeting:** February 26, 2024, 6:30 to 8