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OCF Joint Bylaws/Elections Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2024 – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Present:

Bylaw committee – Lisa Parker, Lawrence Taylor, Heidi Doscher, Teresa Vaughn, Paxton Hoag

Election committee – Stephen Diercouff, Barb Edmonds, Heidi Doscher (also Bylaws), Merrill Levine

Guests: Steven Berkson, Heather Kent

Minutes Review

Approved by unanimous assent

Announcements

None

Agenda review

- 1. Review response from attorney on Bylaws change**
- 2. Review Board Work Session discussion**
- 3. Draft final Bylaws proposals to Board**
- 4. Draft Policy recommendations to Board**
 - a. Confidentiality agreement for Board retreat**
 - b. Refer petition timeframe requirements to Elections Committee**

Meeting Evaluation

Next Committee Meeting

1 and 2. REVIEW RESPONSES FROM ATTORNEY AND BOARD WORK SESSION DISCUSSION ON BYLAWS CHANGE

Note: All of the original proposed changes that went to both the OCF Attorney and to the Board in a work session that are not referenced below will remain a part of the Proposed Changes to the Bylaws.

Motion 1

Article 5, Section 6

Discussed some language clean up here. **Approved.**

Article 6, Section 1 and 2 (new number 2)

Suggested striking the clause “to introduce Board candidates to the membership.” **Approved.**

Suggested accepting all the attorney added language of “member approval or ratification” throughout the Motions. **Approved.**

Suggested striking “new” from the last sentence in paragraph two. **Approved.**

Suggested accepting all the attorney suggested changes from “direct ballot” to “written ballot”. **Approved.**

Article 6, Section 3 Proxy Language

Suggested using the attorney suggested language of “proxy” instead of “absentee ballot”.

Approved. (Note: The suggestion that we in the future change from “proxy” to “alternative ballot form may be considered in future meetings. Importantly, the joint committee felt that this proposal clearly defines what the intended meaning of proxy is here.)

Article 7, Section 3 Voting in Person?

Discussed whether to remove the language about voting in person. Decision was to keep this language currently and possibly review again in future. **Shelved for Future Review**

MOTION 2 Establishing a minimum age for OCF membership

Suggested keeping the proposed language that the minimum age for OCF Membership will be 16. **Approved.** (Note: We discussed whether to add stipulations for teens voting (such as tying it to Teen Crew. We determined this for several reasons, such as the belief that Voting is a RIGHT and is not merit-based.)

Discussed the implications of moving “who have been members for at least 30 days prior to the date of a membership meeting” from 6a to 5. There was concern that this would remove the voter’s protections from Article 11, paragraph 2. The Joint Committees agreed that we are still protecting those rights, and even enhancing them somewhat by extending voting privileges to 16 year olds who turn 16 within 30 days of the election.

(**Note:** After the meeting the Joint Committees received this email from Lawrence Taylor, LT as a possible way to address concerns voiced by members.

Friends: My apologies for the late epiphany, but I think I have a solution to the issue regarding the amendment to Article V, Section 6, subsection (a). It occurred to me that the objection is not to moving (and altering) the 30-day registration requirement, but rather to removing the remainder of that first sentence containing the "all members shall be entitled to cast one vote on any issue" language. Perhaps it would be preferable to move just the registration deadline language to the new subsection, and to amend the first sentence of V.6.(a) to read as follows: "Subject to the registration requirements of subsection (d) of this Section, all members shall be entitled to cast one vote on any issue brought before the membership.")

Suggested changing the language to “Registration forms must be submitted.” and remove the potentially ambiguous reference to “individual” **Approved.**

MOTION 5

Discussed the Board’s thoughts on the advantage of a hard number vs a percentage for numbers of signatures required for a petition. We are keeping our same proposal. (Note from Minutes Taker and Math Teacher: This is a sixth grade skill!!! Come on, we can do it!!)

3. Draft final Bylaws proposals to Board

Stephen Diercouff **offered** to draft the final Bylaws proposals to take to the Board. He will submit this draft to the Joint Committee before submitting to the Board. **Approved.**

4. Draft Policy recommendations to Board

Confidentiality agreement for Board retreat

Refer petition timeframe requirements to Elections Committee

We **recommend** the Board Draft Policy Confidentiality agreement for Board retreat

We would like to **refer petition timeframe requirements to Elections Committee** (how long they have to collect signatures) for future discussion and possible proposals.

Next Meeting?

Discussed that Stephen and/or Heidi will send out an email to confirm a time for our next, and potentially, final meeting of the Joint Elections and Bylaws Committee. This meeting will take place after any Board action. Potentially June 10, 2025. **Approved.**