

Ad Hoc Committee Amendment Working Group Report

In September 2019 MHLS Board President Mark Wilson convened a working group to address the finding that the MHLS Bylaws currently do not have a list of standing committees as is common practice in public library system, library and nonprofit bylaws.

The working group consisted of the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures Committee members: Debra Klein (chair), Michele Ment, and Janet Schnitzer; Ric Swierat, MHLS Vice President, and Mark, in his role as Board President. This group met twice, on September 23rd and November 20th, 2019.

Summary of Findings:

1. It was agreed to recommend to the full board that the standing committees of the board should be listed in the Committees section of the Bylaws and therefore that a Bylaw amendment should be pursued in 2020 as per the amendment clause of the bylaws¹.

To facilitate this, the working group recommends that we use the existing list of committees² as the basis for the amendment with two suggestions for discussion by the board in the first quarter of 2020:

- a. Renaming the Trustee Services Committee as the “Board Development Committee” to more accurately reflect the charge of this group’s work. This suggestion was proposed to minimize confusion as to the work this committee does as currently some members feel this committee is doing the work of staff, when, in fact, that is not the case.
 - b. Consider whether or not the Nominations & Election Committee should be merged with the “Board Development Committee.” This suggestion was proposed to integrate a holistic approach to the work of cultivating officers of the board for purposes of succession planning.
2. In the interim, it was noted that we should follow our current Rules & Procedures in having the board president formally recommend the establishment of our committees for 2020 since the bylaw amendment, if successful, would not go into effect until 2021.

¹ ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. *Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by the MHLS Board of Trustees, or submitted to the MHLS Board of Trustees by a resolution of the Board of Trustees of any member library, in writing, at least 120 days prior to a membership meeting. Amendment shall be by a majority vote of the designated representatives of member libraries voting at any membership meeting provided that the text of the proposed changes shall have been mailed to the board president of all member libraries at least 90 days prior to the membership meeting.*

² <https://board.midhudson.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Board-Committees-and-Committee-Objectives-2019.pdf>