

Ad Hoc Committee Amendment Working Group Report

In January 2020 MHLS Board President Ric Swierat extended the service of the working group begun by former MHLS Board President, Mark Wilson, 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. It was further identified that the bylaws also lack a statement as to the minimum required number of board meetings as is standard practice.

The working group consists of the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures Committee members: Debra Klein (chair), Michele Ment, and Janet Schnitzer; Ric Swierat, MHLS Board President, and Mark Wilson, in his role as immediate-past Board President. This group met on March 9th, 2020 to discuss the feedback received from the Trustee Services Committee, Nominations & Election Committee and the full board at the December 2019 meeting. September 23rd and November 20th, 2019.

Summary of Findings:

1. It was agreed to:
 - a. renew their 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.
 - b. To add language to the bylaws that clarify our board will hold at least 6 business meetings annually in addition to the annual membership meeting.
2. The working group defers to the Trustee Services Committee in regards to the suggestion that the name of their committee be updated to the “Board Development Committee” and requests a recommendation from them at the May 2020 board meeting to facilitate the timing required for bylaw amendments.
3. The working group agreed to retract the suggestion that the current Trustee Services and Nominations & Election Committee be merged based on the feedback received from their peers on the board.

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.*