



Bylaws Committee Minutes

Thursday, September 13, 2012, 7:00pm
Robertson Recreation Center
1641 Preuss Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90035

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

In absence of Chair Brian Kite, Doug called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Board Committee Members Present: Bette Billet, Doug Fitzsimmons

Other Members Present: Barry Levine, Jon Liberman

Committee Members Absent: Brian Kite, Terrence Gomes

II. General Public Comment

None.

III. Old Business

None.

IV. New Business

Discussion about handling factual disagreements.

Bette expressed concern about statements made by Board members in meetings whose veracity was questionable—how should that be addressed/corrected?

Various ideas proposed: call for orders of the day, table the motion until truth can be established (by whom?), create an ad hoc fact-checking sub committee that reports back, handle via normal Board debate/refutation.

But the problem is that it calls into question the legitimacy of the body, shapes public perception of the NC.

Challenges: Who decides when an assertion might not be factual, that its importance is substantial, and that the misrepresentation was intentional? What is the process for addressing the point? How do you allow for Board members to argue passionately, doggedly—even misguidedly—and still screen for untruth? Could a parliamentary "tripwire" be used to stifle debate? Should there be punitive action against a Board member who knowingly lies?

Committee will continue discussing the issue and potential remedies. Bette leaves.

Clarify duties of NC liaisons.

"Liaison" term questioned: intentional to better suggest nature of the role. Jon suggested adding "solicit SORO Board positions": consensus was that the point was already covered.

Vote to submit to Board: 1Y / 0N / 0A + 2Y by other Board members

Ethics training requirement.

Jon thought the listing on the agenda was unclear for this item. Otherwise, no suggested changes.

Vote to submit to Board: 1Y / 0N / 0A + 2Y by other Board members

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Martin Epstein
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Term expiration for officers, chairs and liaisons.

Concern that proposed language would leave the new Board with no leadership in the early months--a concern borne out by experience in 2010. Larry DeMers (guest) suggested that the positions should end after the second official meeting to allow orientation and the orderly running of one month's worth of committees. Suggestion accepted.

Vote to submit to Board: 1Y / 0N / 0A + 2Y by other Board members

Discussion of use of official email.

Doug said that a number of Board members miss important information because they apparently don't check email. Suggestion: modify Code of Civility to require Board to stay current on Board and neighborhood communications as part of "doing homework."

Vote to submit to Board: 1Y / 0N / 0A + 2Y by other Board members

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.