

Minutes: VMA Election Committee Meeting Oct 20, 2019

Location: the home of Lauren Biel (7309 Delfield Street).

Attending: Marty Langelan, Jesse Tampio, Lorie Mitchell, Lauren Biel, Halie Soifer, and Council representative Susan Fattig.

Meeting called to order: 3:05 pm.

Marty was voted as Chair, and Jesse was voted as Vice Chair, by unanimous vote of the committee.

The committee reaffirmed its commitment to the high level of integrity and transparency necessary for the elections committee.

The committee decided that Jesse Tampio will do communications with the listserv to amplify committee messages/info as needed, with back-up from Lauren Biel.

The committee reviewed the Sunshine Law Requirements and new Open Meetings Compliance Board ruling about email exchanges (per the briefing provided by Ron Bolt earlier in the week). Any "reply all" emails about substantive legislative functions are considered to be "meetings" by the new ruling.

Update on Council vacancy: The open community solicitation notice has been mailed, posted repeatedly on Constant Contact, and otherwise distributed to all village households. Three residents have come forward so far. Marty will prepare the committee's report to the Council when the application period closes on October 21. Per the Charter, the Council will elect the person to fill the vacancy. The Council has begun the process of amending Charter section 408 to say that the new member will serve out the remainder of the unexpired term.

The committee unanimously approved sending a recommendation to the Council to *consider appropriate measures to make the vacancy process as transparent as possible, which could include making the names and/or statements of the interested parties available to the community prior to Council election.*

Going forward, the election committee will consider codifying an addendum to the election ordinance around filling vacancies, including timeline and transparency, for potential adoption by the Council and for the benefit of future committees' procedures.

The committee discussed language for clearly defining avenues for residents' comments to be submitted for consideration. Jesse will draft process and language to distribute for approval.

The committee approved the June 2nd meeting minutes.

The committee set Thursday May 7, 2020, as Election Day; the nominations period will open on February 20, 2020.

The committee unanimously voted to recommend that Council *amend the election ordinance to allow residents to mail their Requests for Absentee Ballots to the election committee at the village office, to improve administrative efficiency and enable the committee to do a faster turn-around on residents' absentee ballot requests.*

The committee scheduled its next meeting for 3 pm on Sunday January 12, 2020 (location TBD).

Meeting adjourned: 4:35 pm.