

Special Committee on RTM Governance
Minutes, September 11, 2018

Attendees (districts): Kimberly Blank (7); Tom Broadhurst III (5); Joshua Brown (8); Bill Collins (11); Betsey Frumin (9); Dean Goss (1); Lucia Jansen (7); Robert May (12); Robert McKnight (4); Wilma Nacinovich (2); Lisa Stuart (11); Alexis Voulgaris (6). Absent: Andrew Chapin (8); Tom Conelias (3); Alan Small (10)

Chairman Voulgaris called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes from our previous meeting on August 28, 2018 were accepted by unanimous consent.

Ms. Voulgaris thanked Mr. Collins for organizing our list of suggestions and turned the meeting over to him. The committee agreed to start our deliberations with "low-hanging fruit." We agreed to keep a record of our decisions on each recommendation. We will refine the language explaining our rationale going forward. When we have completed our work, the committee will present its recommendations to the RTM, and RTM members will have the opportunity to amend our recommendations.

We started with #5 regarding multiple issues around the Appointments Committee. We voted to refer these five recommendations to the Appointments Committee to secure their opinions before we consider them.

#30 We agreed by unanimous consent to recommend the practice to distinguish between Special and Standing Committees on the website, the Call and in all RTM written materials.

#33 The committee agrees with the principle of accountability but finds this recommendation to be vague. We determined to incorporate the principle of accountability in the Orientation Manual and the District Chair manual. If these manuals adopt guiding principles, accountability would be included.

#43 Move RTM meetings to GHS – We discussed how busy the MISA schedule is during the school year, particularly in the months of March, May and June, making it impossible to plan for RTM meetings there a year in advance. Because there is no identifiable alternative, we will make a note as part of the CMS re-design to consider AC in the auditorium.

#10B Swear in new members at the December RTM meeting – The official term for RTM members begins in January, so it is impossible to swear them in in January. While votes at the December District organization meetings and January committee votes are advisory, new members are official when they cast their first vote at the full RTM meeting in January. Ms. Blank will determine if it is State law of Charter that establishes terms.

#10A Candidates for Moderator and Moderator Pro Temps will declare their candidacy by the December Board meeting - We will refer this recommendation to the Moderator for his opinion before we consider this.

#6 Create a template for committee and district reports - We agreed a template is a good idea. We decided to include a guideline in the manual, and we will evaluate the template at a later date to determine if it is effective. Mr. Brown volunteered to present examples of templates to the committee.

#14 Higher Threshold for gifts to town - We agreed to maintain the \$5000 threshold. We agreed that it was our job and responsibility to evaluate gifts to the town to insure their worthiness and operating costs, so we shouldn't lower the threshold.

#20 Stagger committee meetings over a longer period of time – We endorse the concept of joint meetings, but it is a challenge to stretch out meeting dates further because it extends RTM members' responsibilities into three weeks a month. There would be issues with committee meetings bleeding into District meetings. We will encourage joint committee meetings whenever possible in the manuals under the theme of efficiency.

#37 No RTM communication without approval of entire RTM - Our rules already stipulate that no one person can speak on behalf of the RTM.

#45 Increase the minimum amount for RTM approval from \$5,000 to \$25,000 – We agreed not to raise the minimum because it would remove a number of appropriations from our oversight and we feel it's our responsibility as RTM members to thoroughly analyze the budget.

#1 Steering Committee to set monthly agenda and Call – Currently, the Call is organized in the order in which items are received and time-stamped in the Clerk's office. Deferred items are always placed first on the call. Members can make a motion in the RTM meeting to move an item up or back on the call. We will share this sentiment with the Moderator to use the consent calendar more and to compress the consent and the combined calendars to insure that "meaty issues" are given the time necessary to adequately consider them. We will include a description of how the Call is organized in the Orientation Manual.

#2 Merge meetings – We endorse the concept of joint meetings, and we will use the same language from #20. In addition, we must respect that there are set meeting dates which make combining meetings difficult when one's set committee meeting is on a different day from that of another committee. We will include the recommendation to merge meetings when possible under Best Practices.

Ms. Voulgaris adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa G. Stuart