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Minutes of the Election Sub-Committee Subcommittee Meeting

navajoplanners.org

Thursday, January 28, 2021

By Zoom Video Conference

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Call to Order: January 28, 2021 at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call of NCPI Election Sub-Committee Members:

David Smith – NCPI Chair

Matt Adams – Subcommittee Chair

Lance Grucela – NCPI Member

Daniel Fitzgerald – NCPI Member

Cory La Shell – NCPI Member

Shain Haug – NCPI Secretary

Action Item: Discussion of the recently released CPG Election Guidelines from the City of San Diego. Determine which election method to implement for the March 10, 2021 election for recommendation to the full NCPI body at the February 10, 2021 meeting.

The Sub-Committee held a general discussion of the issues presented by the inability to hold an in person election as is required by the bylaws because of the Covid-19 pandemic with due consideration of the City of San Diego's Planning Group Election Guidance under Covid-19 Memorandum dated January 19, 2021. That which follows represents the many considerations of the issues presented:

Matt Adams: How do we conduct the election in accordance with the new city guidelines? In summary he offered that the matter is very complex with suggestions from the city regarding voting with computers, by a two envelope ballot, ballots to be delivered by a drive by. The city recommends in person, on-line, or by mail with options to the public. To complicate the matter further we can expect a significant participation in the election because of the community responses to matters now pending before the NCPI.

Lance Grucela: We should do it on-line. The biggest challenge is to verify the voters' eligibility. You need to know who is submitting the ballot. There must be a screening process. In the past the proof of eligibility it was mostly a driver license, or a utility bill, or other such means.

Daniel Fitzgerald: We might have to have a voter registration process in advance of or in connection with the voting. This is where the issue first arises, who is eligible to vote and how is that to be verified.

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Mat Adams: Question to the NCPI Chair, will the city conduct a workshop or some other means to address the issue?

David Smith: Nothing from the city regarding the issue of a workshop or guidance other than the January 19, 2021 document. That proof of eligibility might be submitted by the voter with the ballot. Such as a copy of a driver license or other qualifying document.

Daniel Fitzgerald: There is a security issue with submitting such a document as a driver license or other sensitive document.

Lance Grucela: the city document indicates that the proof of eligibility can be "one or more" proving documents. If we are going on line or drop off we need to receive some submission of eligibility. Again, we should do it on-line. But we will have to coordinate a drop off mail-in location. And who wants to open envelopes in this time of pandemic.

Matt : With so many Covid-19 issues we should stay on line.

Daniel Fitzgerald : We could do a prescreening to develop a qualified list. But people would have to do a pre-election website registration.

David Smith: we have to look at the long term issues of the Covid-19 restrictions. This will not be the last time we have to deal with these restrictive issues.

Daniel Fitzgerald: How do we set a cut off date on a registration to vote?

Lance Grucela: it is inevitable that we must have a cut off date for registration and then a cut-off date for voting.

David Smith : How long can we postpone the election until we get a better handle on the issue?

Cory La Shell: The on-line will be the best or worst depending on how it goes.

Lance Grucela: I am not opposed to a last minute drop-off. The city has established impossible standards to address the issue. We just have to do it in the most straight forward and transparent manner possible.

Matt Adams: Other organizations just vote on-line.

Daniel Grucela: Just voting on line misses the verification requirement.

Shain Haug: Can we delay without consideration of pending issues that have raised significant public interest?

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Daniel Fitzgerald: At the February 10, 2021 meeting we could discuss the election process, the registration, the proof of eligibility, and then have the subcommittee meets again. Then we could work out the cut off date.

David Smith: We can use the March, 2021 meeting for the applicants can make their pitches with the on-on line voting taking place before the April 2021 meeting.

Lance Grucela: if we want to delay we have to consider the strictures of the bylaws Article 5 and the specific date required for the election. Therefore we cannot delay without violating the bylaws.

David Smith: We could hold the February 10, 2021 Board meeting with a February 15, 2021 registration date. At the end of February 2021 we could hold a candidate forum and hold a vote before the March 10, 2021 meeting with announcement of the election results at the March 10, 2021 meeting.

Lance Grucela : Upon review of the bylaws the vote must be completed by the March 10, 2021 meeting. We have to be ready to continue adding registrants up to the day of voting.

Matt Adams : We can set a date to close registration. And then set a voting date before the March 10, 2021 meeting, with an on-line voting three days before the March 10, 2021 and count the votes at that meeting. What is wrong with an application for office by the February 10, 2021 meeting?

Lance Grucela: Reviews the bylaws limitations for candidacy. Let the applicants speak at the February 10, 2021 meeting.

Matt Adams: Reviews the candidates already applying. A particularly large number in light of the current issues facing the NCPI.

Daniel Fitzgerald: We have to further consider the many aspects of the voting process, when the candidate list has to be finalized, when the cut-off date for registration and voting, when candidates will be able to speak to the public.

Matt Adams: The deadlines much consider the ability to do the tally by the March 10, 2021 meeting.

All Members: continued discussion of the specific techniques of verifying registration and counting the votes, of the system that will be used to count the votes, details of how when the election can be conducted with consideration of the various matters of concern as discussed above.

Following continued discussion of the many aspects of the issues as indicated above the following will be presented to the NCPI Board on during the February 10, 2021 meeting:

As provided by Danny Fitzgerald

Voter eligibility in order to receive a ballot, an email must be sent with First and Last Name, address of eligibility, and proof of address (e.g. DL, lease, utility bill, or another form) to the navajoplanners@gmail.com email by March 5. The Election Subcommittee will verify eligibility.

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Ballots will be emailed a ballot using ElectionBuddy.com March 8 and the election will close on March 10 at 6 pm, allowing results to be announced.

As provided by Lance Grucela

In accordance with the City of San Diego's Community Planning Group Election Guidance under COVID-19 memorandum dated January 19, 2021, and its bylaws, and in further consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the NCPI Election Subcommittee shall conduct its annual elections on-line using the electionbuddy.com platform as follows:

NCPI requires proof of identity of those eligible community members who are seeking to vote in the election to ensure that voting is only by eligible members of the community. In order to receive an electronic ballot and vote in the election, all voters will be required to submit proof of eligibility via email to navajoplanners@gmail.com email on or before March 5. This email must include voters' First and Last Name, Email Address, Eligible Address and Proof of Identity (as specified in Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws). The Election Subcommittee will verify eligibility.

All eligible voters verified by the Election Subcommittee will receive an electronic ballot via email through the ElectionBuddy.com platform on March 8 and will be required to cast their votes using the platform on or before March 10 at 6 pm. Results will be announced at the March 10, 2021 regular meeting of NCPI.

Adjourn: Moved and seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:11p.m.

Members of the general public in attendance included: None

The NCPI bylaws, Article V, Section 2 provide:

NCPI shall make a good faith effort to utilize means appropriate to publicize the planning group's eligibility requirements for candidacy and the upcoming elections.

In the election process, the planning group shall seek enough new candidates to exceed the number of seats open for election in order to allow those who have served for eight (8) consecutive years to leave the group for at least one year. NCPI holds its election at the March regular meeting at one (1) location and prior to the commencement of the regular March meeting.

NCPI will require proof of identity of those eligible community members who are seeking to vote in the election. The planning group shall ensure that voting is only by eligible members of the community. Proof of identity may include, but not be limited to: a property tax bill, utility bill, valid photo identification or valid and current business license. Disputed identification shall be reviewed and certified by the Elections Committee Chairperson. Further, businesses will be allowed one (1) vote per business for purposes of elections to NCPI. If an individual meets more than one of the eligibility requirements, then he/she is only eligible to cast one (1) vote. Non-resident property owners or their designees are allowed only one (1) vote per property.

The ballot presented to eligible community members to vote will clearly identify which seats individual candidates are running for, how many candidates can be selected, whether there are limitations on

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which candidates various categories of eligible community members can vote for and which candidates, if any, must receive a 2/3 majority of the vote due to service beyond eight consecutive years of service. The NCPI policy related to write-in candidates is that write-in candidates are allowed, if eligible, per Article III, Section 2. If it is later determined that the write-in candidate is ineligible, any vote cast for an ineligible write-in candidate is an invalid vote and will not be counted.