

Youth Voting Committee

March 20, 2023

Present: Allen Veitmeier, Mike Mosset, Mathias Erhardt, Braeden Howes, Brad Veith, Karla Meikle, Hatley Hetletved, Cody Miller, Dustin Bakken, and Penny Hetletved

Others Present: Dusty Peterson and Derwin Mann

Meeting brought to order by Karla Meikle by 7:05 PM.

Chair is Karla, Co-Chair is Brad

Agenda Topics:

- Youth Voting
- Who in a family can vote?
- Update report for the annual meeting
- A survey was suggested at last board meeting

Discussion began:

Karla began the discussion and asked for professional, respectful decorum around the meeting.

Cody Miller asked to speak first. Cody Miller stated that he is Switzerland and wanted to point out that the by-laws from past meetings, age of memberships to purchase, and running for board “threw gasoline on the fire” of the club. Cody stated that the voting age needs to be 18, or even 16, but Cody doesn’t want to see them on the board. He offered those as his points of contention with the voting age. Cody discussed that board members are liable personally which is a concern of Derwin’s.

Derwin asked what age is the adult membership currently. Group answered as age 18. He doesn’t want minors to vote for by-laws and liable to other decisions that may have repercussions. Derwin thinks that youth should have a say via the board and then the board voices their (youth) points. Derwin believes that when you can be a member in good standing with an individual can vote or a family membership gets two votes. Derwin alone thinks it should be adults (age 18 and older).

Allen makes a reference that states that the lack of specifics with the by-laws means that we need to come up with a compromise as youth can currently vote. So, we need to wordsmith a compromise that will be passed by the general membership.

Derwin stated we need to do what is right.

Braeden shared that he always wanted to be more involved and have more responsibility when he was a youth archer. He said we need to identify that we are land-locked, and we need to understand that it needs to be put into the vote. Braeden says that 18 isn’t a good enough compromise to make it happen in a successful vote.

Brad redirected the group back to what is the goal of this committee—which is the task at hand.

Hatley offered a clarification that the youth board members are application based, non-voting members, and serving on the board within a youth representation.

Dustin offered that he hears “compromise” “voting” and “liability”. Dustin offers that a compromise would be a certain age for a certain set of voting. Dustin’s suggestion was “x” age for the board members, and then “x” for fiscal or by-laws.

Derwin then spoke again that if a decision was proved to be poor with ripple effects that didn’t serve Nishu well, the board is liable. He stated we are who we are because of the youth.

Cody gave an analogy to the church age of confirmation...does that age then become a family plan.

Mike shared that we come up through the 4H side...he shared an example of youth membership with a non-adult. He feels that he wants it to consider to still be financially stable for all students. He wants us to be considerate of our current members.

Hatley asked family membership should list all students with DOB being listed. Then the system would be automated. Youth can get a job at 14.

Karla made the point that in ND 14 year old’s can drive here and be able to scan into the building to come shoot. That seems like a good age.

Braeden says on the right track with working on Dustin’s suggestions. Hatley suggested 14 vote for board members, 16 by-laws, and 18 for fiscal. Cody suggests, 16, 17, 18. Derwin says 18. Hatley says ok so youth make up 40% representation.

Penny suggested that we respect Hatley’s perspective as it’s her reality. Penny suggested that we go back to Dustin’s suggestion.

Derwin said that 4H should be thankful to be here. A lot have been given to a lot of people. And we don’t want to take things away but might be forced to go there.

Allen said to Hatley’s point 16 years old may not be young enough. Dusty Peterson asked that he has a 14-year-old who shoots her every day, and she vacuums the upstairs all of the time. Allen thinks that the compromise needs to start at age 14.

Brad said that he came in from a mindset of age 15 for voting...but at this point a survey may need to go out to have a better idea of membership. Needs to be language because that’s the real issue of what is causing consternation amongst some.

Braeden offers give a few suggestions on the survey.

Dustin said a survey could not serve us well. Penny offered a reading of what the constitution is involved in. Poll the general membership for voting for board members, by-laws, and fiscal/procurement.

Cody offered an example of his two daughters being night and day. Fiscal and by-laws should be 18. And memberships should be increased.

Mike said if you cut it off at 16 to vote on everything then they should get all of the benefits.

Hatley 14 age for voting for board members, 16/17 age for by-laws, and 18 for fiscal and procurement. Dustin will agree with the exception of the “beginning” to understand... Cody offered you can’t buy a car and a gun at age 16. Cody shared that folks Hatley’s age...doesn’t get it.

Hatley said that suggestions have to be ok with what they are voting on—they don’t want to shoot ourselves in the foot. Allen pointed out that 40% of the aspect needs to be youth friendly—to get the piece approved. Derwin said if this doesn’t get fixed then it is going to have many people walk. There has been no club like Nishu in the whole state...he has been a member for 55 years...and we need to make it right for the people who made this place.

Braeden suggested that we get back to the task of offering a compromise to speak to the youth. Allen said we have to understand that the youth is a large contingency and we need to be respectful. Braeden showed

Hatley stated that youth are a big member of the club and it has to be agreeable.

Cody Miller made a motion of age 15 for voting on board members and by-laws that excludes any fiscal decisions. Brad seconded. Further discussion. Hatley was asked her opinion—she feels 15 is too old for a beginning. Braeden said that 15 is a good compromise. Hatley says age 14. Karla says that we have to stay together in common ground. Cody said some people are going to be pissed either way. Penny suggested an amendment of age 14 for board member voting, age 16 for by-laws voting, and 18 for all fiscal and procurement voting. Allen seconded the amendment. Any discussion? Derwin wants to see an expansion and this needs to be age 18. Karla stated that it is more than the club and a membership but none are “allowed” to be here...we are all members. Roll call vote: Cody yes, Hatley yes, Mike yes, Allen yes, Derwin yes, Mathias yes, Braeden yes, Dustin yes, Brad yes, Karla yes, and Penny yes. Unanimous. Original motion vote was defeated.

Next topic—how many votes does a family membership get? All of this will be made right by an age defined for what is being voted on will take this taken care of....

Survey—decided not to do the survey but poll the group.

Update on Annual Meeting—Karla will give the update.

Meeting adjourned: Allen motion, Brad seconded. 8:38 PM.

Executive Board: 9/5/2023

Called to order: 7:35 PM

- Reviewed what committee came to an agreement on previously offered motion from the original committee
 - Discussion ensued about bookkeeping the three ages.
 - Voting is checked for membership and can be for DOBs as well
 - Point of Clarity: All family members of voting age can vote with a family membership
 - Point of Clarity: Voting age is as of date of Annual Meeting and/or Special Meeting
 - Process: Committee Recommendation → Executive Committee Recommendation to Board → Board Passes or Fails Recommendation → Passed goes to Annual Meeting → Fail goes back to original committee

Bylaw recommendations if the executive committee recommendation passes.

Article 8 - Election and Terms of Office

The term of all officers shall be one year. The term of office shall be the May meeting immediately following the annual meeting date to the following year's May meeting immediately following the annual meeting. Officers may serve more than one term.

Board members shall each serve two-year staggered terms, with one-half of the board members being replaced by membership vote each year. Board members may serve more than one term.

Election of board members takes place at the annual meeting each year. Members age 14 (as of day of meeting) and older may vote for board members.

Article 9 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this organization shall begin on April 1st of each year and conclude on March 31st of each year.

Fiscal voting can happen at special board meetings to follow a regular board meeting as well as the annual meeting. Members age 18 (as of day of meeting) and older may vote for fiscal matters.

Article 10 – Amendments

Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds of voting membership at the annual meeting or special meeting of the membership of which the membership has been notified by mail or email two weeks before the meeting, with such meeting notification including a copy of the proposed amendments

Bylaws and Constitution goes to committee, executive committee, and board approval prior to being voted on at an annual meeting. Members age 16 (as of day of meeting) and older may vote for Bylaws and Constitution amendments.

Dustin motioned to pass committee recommendation with our points of clarity. Joe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 PM