



OMA STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Prepared by Patty Mulvihill

July 7, 2021

General Overview

Since the last Staff Report was issued in mid-June, LOC staff has been able to identify the key areas of concern regarding LOC's service provision to the OMA, is working to address each of those concerns, and has been developing internal processes and controls to ensure that LOC's service provision to the OMA is stable and consistent.

If you have any suggestions, concerns, or ideas you want me to know about or to consider including in a work plan, please contact me directly at pmulvihill@orcities.org.

OMA Committees

The last several weeks have seen heavy activity from two OMA Committees, specifically the Bylaws Committee and Conference Planning Committee.

Bylaws Committee

The Committee was convened to propose amendment to the OMA Constitution and the OMA Policies. For the Constitution, the Committee was asked to present an amendment which would allow for the OMA to take positions on nonpartisan legislative matters. The Policies were asked to be amended to better streamline the OMA Board's ability to conduct an email meeting.

During the June 9, 2021, Bylaws Committee meeting I was directed to prepare a first draft of the relevant amendments for both the Constitution and the Board Policies.

As I was working on the amendments I did some research on prior editions of the OMA Constitution. During my review of prior Constitutions it became clear that the Constitution I had been provided in March, when I advised President Wytoski neither she nor the OMA Board had authority to take a position on a legislative matter without the prior consent of the full OMA membership, was not current. The current Constitution does not prohibit the President, or the Board, from taking positions on legislative matters – in fact, the current Constitution is silent as to legislative positions being taken.

Upcoming Dates

July 15 – Conference Planning Committee

July 16- Scholarship Applications Due

July 21 – President Wytoski & Mayor Snider Award Scholarships

July 22 – Bylaws Committee Review of 2nd Draft of Amendments Completed

July 29 - OMA Board Meeting

July 29 – 31- OMA Summer Conference

Active Committees

Bylaws Committee

Rod Cross, Toledo
Carola MacInnes, Fossil
David Russ, Dundee
Jason Snider, Tigard
Beth Wytoski, Dayton

Conference Planning Committee

Henry Balensifer III, Warrenton
Scott Hill, McMinnville
Cecelia Koontz, Monmouth
Teri Lenahan, North Plains
Jason Snider, Tigard
Jim Trett, Detroit
Beth Wytoski, Dayton

Nominating Committee

Henry Balensifer III, Warrenton
Steve Callaway, Hillsboro
Brian Dalton, Dallas
Keith Mays, Sherwood
Beth Wytoski, Dayton



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Despite learning that the OMA Board is not seemingly prohibited from taking positions on legislative matters under the current Constitution, I still prepared a draft amendment for the Committee to review wherein the Constitution would be written in such a way to affirmatively provide authority to the Officers or Board to take a nonpartisan position.

The Bylaws Committee met on June 29, 2021. During the meeting, after a lengthy discussion surrounding what to do with the Constitutional amendment, the Committee ultimately decided that the Constitution should be amended to identify four key principles that will govern any position taken by the OMA related to legislative or policy matters. The first three principles would be described generally as the foundations of home rule and the fourth principle would specifically relate to the importance of civic engagement and civic education. I was directed to prepare the relevant language for a second draft.

I circulated the second draft of proposed Constitutional amendments to the Committee via email on July 2nd. Their comments and edits are to be submitted no later than July 22nd. Generally, the proposed second draft identifies three foundations of home rule (preserving and protecting local control; supporting legislation and policies that promote fiscal stability, financial independence and preserve revenue bases for cities; and supporting opportunities for cities to compete for regional, state and federal funding) and a directive to support legislation and policies that further civic engagement and education.

Upon receipt of all comments, I will work with President Wytoski to prepare, if necessary, a third draft of the Constitutional amendment and submit the same to the full Board during its upcoming July meeting.

As for the Policy Amendment I prepared regarding email meetings, the Committee approved the amendment as submitted and directed me to share that amendment with the full OMA Board during the Board's upcoming July meeting. Generally, the new policy will:

- Provide the President the discretion to conduct a special meeting, including do so upon request of a Board member;
- The Secretary (LOC staff member) will work with the President and Board member requesting the meeting to create a meeting notice, summary of the purpose of the meeting, proposed motion, and then initiate the email meeting;
- All Board members will be given seven days to cast their votes via email (if a majority does not vote within seven days the motion will fail);
- Motions cannot be amended and the person who made the motion can rescind it any time during the seven days;
- The Secretary (LOC staff person) is responsible for keeping tally of the votes and reporting the same to the President and Board; and
- At the next regular, non-email meeting, included on the consent agenda, the President will provide a summary of what transpired during the email meeting.



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Conference Planning Committee

The Conference Planning Committee has held two meetings since the last Staff Report, one on June 17, 2021, and the second on July 1, 2021.

Both the Committee and LOC staff feel confident the upcoming conference will be a success – the majority of the programmatic decisions have been made and most educational sessions are fully developed. There are four sessions still being finalized in terms of confirming the desired synopsis or finalizing session speakers. The Committee's goal is to have all educational sessions fully completed in all aspects by its next meeting, which is scheduled for July 15, 2021.

The main concern of the Committee at this point is securing sponsorships as the sponsorship levels are lower than prior years and less than the anticipated budgeted revenue. Mayor Hill of McMinnville, who serves on the Committee, took responsibility for trying to secure some additional sponsors, particularly those sponsors who had previously supported the OMA. I was directed to reach out to Mayor Callaway for additional support in this area as he has previously shown exceptional skill at securing sponsorships – that outreach occurred on July 2, 2021.

Finally, the Committee focused some attention on scholarship awards. As the Board knows, this year instead of following the standard scholarship route, the Board decided to set aside funds to allow for mayors of cities impacted by natural disasters in 2020 to receive a free or reduced OMA membership renewal, OMA conference registration, and/or up to four nights of hotel accommodations during the OMA Summer Conference. Three cities had their mayors submit a request for a waiver: Central Point; Detroit; and Gates.

Of the \$26,750.00 allocated for scholarships this year, the President, in authorizing the requests for support submitted by Central Point, Detroit and Gates, has authorized the expenditure of \$2,269.00. This leaves a balance in the scholarship line of \$24,481.00.

Because there is a significant number of fiscal resources remaining, the Committee decided to open up general scholarships to attend the OMA Conference. I was directed to create a new scholarship application form, send that form to anyone who had expressed an interest in receiving a scholarship (mayors from North Powder and Merrill), place the scholarship notification on the OMA listserv, and specifically invite mayors from cities located within 60 miles of the conference venue to apply for a scholarship. All directives I was issued have been completed and I have set up calendar reminders for myself to send email reminders to the mayors regarding this opportunity.

Applications for scholarships are due by Friday, July 16. President Wytoski and Mayor Snider will review all submitted applications on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, and make awards therein.

Newsletter

The Second Quarter Newsletter was published on July 2, 2021.



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During the upcoming OMA Board meeting one of the agenda items will be a review of the Third and Fourth Quarter Newsletters to ensure we have identified all relevant articles and the writers thereof.

Membership Directory

The OMA Membership Directory was emailed to the printers on Friday, June 18, 2021. A confirmation email from the company was received the following Monday, June 21, 2021. LOC staff still expects to provide all conference attendees with a printed copy of the OMA Directory and mail copies to members who cannot attend the conference.

Staff Schedule

As a reminder, I am presently taking some medical and vacation leave, with the expectation of returning to full working status on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. The leave will not impact my ability to provide service and support to the OMA (the leave is intermittent in nature, and I am working partial days most of the time).

If you have questions, concerns, need help, or wish to chat about anything, please feel free to contact me via email or on my cell phone, both of which are provided below for ease of reference. As I am on leave, my email is set with an automatic out-of-office reply that indicates I'm not checking email (that's not entirely correct – I am checking for some people and organizations, of which OMA is included). Please know that my response may be delayed, but in no case should you have to wait more than 24 hours to get a response.

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End of Report