

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
VIRTUAL COUNCIL SESSION
DECEMBER 3, 2020

The 2020 Virtual Council Session was convened at 2:00 pm CT on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS. Council Secretariat Marsha Burgess outlined the Code of Conduct and logistical instructions for the meetings.

Parliamentarian Eli Mina outlined the rules and procedures of the meeting.

ALA President Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. welcomed participants. He noted that a quorum of 75 councilors has been met and the **Rules Governing Virtual Council Meeting, CD #5.2, are ADOPTED by CONSENT.**

ESTABLISHING THE AGENDA, ALA CD #8.9. By **CONSENT**, agenda was **ADOPTED.**

President Jefferson noted that in June, Council voted that it would take responsibility for decision-making on the Forward Together process, and that, as president, he will call at least one meeting of the ALA Council in the fall prior to the 2021 Midwinter Meeting devoted exclusively to the changes to the structure of the ALA governance and the detailed plans for a constitutional convention.

Forward Together Working Group (FTWG) Update, ALA CD #51. FTWG Co-Chairs Joslyn Bowling-Dixon and Steven Yates provided the following updates:

- FTWG hosted six 2-hour discussion sessions throughout Fall 2020 with the goal to give councilors time to review, consider and engage with these topics and provide feedback for the working group's report.
- There is a FTWG Microsite with each session's slide deck, transcript, and notes.
- FTWG met biweekly and had post session meetings.
- Timeline for FWTG sessions:
 - 8/28: ALA Core Values
 - 9/11: Election and Appointment of the Board of Directors; Size of the Board
 - 9/25: Elected and Appointed members to ALA Committees
 - 10/9: 1% Threshold for Round Table creation
 - 11/6: Shared Round Table Governance Docs, Policies and Procedures
 - 11/20: Redistribution of the functions of Council to other areas of the Association
- A survey was provided via the private Council listserv on November 25th, with a goal of 100% council participation. Surveys close on December 9, 2020 at 9 pm CT. The FTWG was encouraged by the Executive Board to include this survey to ensure as robust as possible feedback from Council.
- The Council Document outlines some overarching questions and points related to each issue discussed. Ms. Bowling Dixon and Mr. Yates also encouraged Councilors to review the materials on the FTWG microsite for more detailed information.
- The Co-Chairs encouraged Councilors to reach out to them with questions, or to Marsha Burgess or Raymond Garcia with ALA Governance.

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- After December 9, FTWG will compile its report and integrate the survey results to make its final report at Midwinter 2021.

New Forward Together Timeline, ALA CD#52. President Jefferson noted the Executive Board has proposed a new timeline that will move Council closer to a constitutional convention and to consider action items and resolutions. The constitutional convention, for our purposes, will be a series of discussions, debates and then action to amend the governance structure.

To focus on certain items of debate building and using the analysis of the Forward Together working group, ALA President will appoint a task force that will bring action items to this body to discuss and debate. The work of this task force will begin in January and will bring items to this body in March and June and will consult with the President on action items at any other times. The charge of this group will be to consider all recommendations and analysis, as well as any other proposals that may be brought before the group.

President Jefferson presented the following motion, ALA CD #52:

Moved (by the ALA Executive Board),

- 1. That the Forward Together Working Group (FTWG) be directed to prepare its final report and analysis for the 2021 Midwinter Meeting; and**
- 2. That, following the presentation of the FTWG final report, the ALA President appoint a new Task Force to analyze the FTWG report and make recommendations for Council's consideration.**

Councilor discussed whether the motion includes the timeline, as it is not explicitly referenced in the motion language but is included in CD #52.

Councilor Jennifer Boettcher noted that she would vote against the motion as it moves resolutions or proposals out of the Council and into this working group. President Jefferson noted that Council will always own the process and the working group will be members from Council.

Councilor Pelayo-Lozada noted that it is important to have individuals who have worked on SCOE and FTWG as members on the new group for their institutional knowledge. President Jefferson noted that the group will likely be around 15 Councilors and include such individuals.

Councilor Amy Lappin asked for clarification on the timeline, if the constitutional convention will still be in March 2021. President Jefferson confirmed that it would, as well as in June 2021

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed timeline, as well as the goals of Forward Together and the new group. A number of Councilors expressed concern that the new timeline is prolonging a process that has already been extended, while a number of Councilors also noted that structural changes to governance and documents is an extremely lengthy process. Executive Board Member Latrice Booker noted that the new updated timeline proposal is included in the vote, but that within that timeline, Council can still make adjustment as needed. A number of councilors noted that the proposed updated timeline should be reflected in the motion's language.

Council Tara Brady asked for clarification regarding the number of votes necessary for a bylaws change. Mr. Mina noted that two votes are required to amend the constitution and one vote required to amend the bylaws. If ALA takes the recommendation of Forward Together, the end goal is to have one document, bylaws, rather than a constitution and bylaws. The current schedule anticipates a vote to rescind the constitution, followed by a second vote on that. There would be an additional vote for a new bylaws. The single document recommendation came after advice from both legal counsel and Mr. Mina that one document is sufficient.

Councilor Jennifer Boettcher asked if this work would factor in the work of Operating Agreement Work Group. President Jefferson noted that it would.

Councilor Eileen Palmer emphasized that she supports the motion as currently stated, but with the clarification that if voting for this means also voting for the revised timeline, she does not support the motion.

Councilor Matthew Bollerman moved that a third clause be added to the motion:

Moved (by the ALA Executive Board),

- 1. That the Forward Together Working Group (FTWG) be directed to prepare its final report and analysis for the 2021 Midwinter Meeting; and**
- 2. That, following the presentation of the FTWG final report, the ALA President appoint a new Task Force to analyze the FTWG report and make recommendations for Council's consideration, and**
- 3. That, Table A: Proposed New Timeline and Process be adopted.**

President Jefferson called for a vote on ALA CD #52, amendment

APPROVED ALA CD #52 amendment.

President Jefferson Called for a vote on ALA CD #52, as amended:

Moved (by the ALA Executive Board),

- 1. That the Forward Together Working Group (FTWG) be directed to prepare its final report and analysis for the 2021 Midwinter Meeting; and**
- 2. That, following the presentation of the FTWG final report, the ALA President appoint a new Task Force to analyze the FTWG report and make recommendations for Council's consideration, and**
- 3. That, Table A: Proposed New Timeline and Process be adopted.**

APPROVED ALA CD #52, as amended.

ALA Virtual Midwinter Council Meeting, January 2021.

- There will be several diverse speakers and programs.
- The Center for The Future of Libraries will be highlighted.

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- Several important programs to be announced shortly.
- Registration has been open since November.
- This will be our last Midwinter as we will be moving into a new type of event in 2022.
- A decision on holding 2021 Annual live or virtually will be communicated soon.

The session was adjourned.