

Friends of the Holyoke Public Library, Inc.

Summary of Proposed Changes to Bylaws

September 2017

Why change? The existing bylaws, adopted in 2011, give the Library's old address, now obsolete. Sandy Ward and Margaret McCarthy volunteered to prepare an updated draft, incorporating a few other changes desired in recent years by the Friends Board, especially more flexibility in filling board vacancies. Retired lawyer (and Library Trustee) Joan Steiger reviewed that draft and suggested several improvements, including moving the long Mission statement to a separate document which would be easier in future to edit. Sally Reed, United for Libraries (a national network for Friends groups, Library Trustees, and Library Foundations) also influenced this bylaws revision, encouraging a smaller board and more flexible structure for engaging today's volunteers, who tend to prefer specific short-term projects, rather than committing to three-year terms with required board meetings.

Key changes with 2017 Bylaws:

1. Headquarters at 250 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, MA
2. Mission Statement no longer in Bylaws (was Art. II §4)
3. Board of Directors "at least 5 but no more than 10" (Art.IV §1; was 15 to 27)
4. Board = Executive Leadership Team (Art.IV §2 and Art.VI §2)
5. Four Officers instead of six (Art.IV §5 and Art.V)
6. Nominating Comm. may select officer nominees from membership (Art.IV §8)
7. Nominations to fill vacancies can be made any time of year (Art.IV §9)
8. New section added: Removal procedure (Art.IV §10)
9. Annual meeting date to be determined by Board (Art.VII § 1)
10. Quorum for board meetings reduced from seven to four (Art.VII § 3)
11. New articles (IX, XI, XII) added: Conflict of Interest, Parliamentary Procedure, and Dissolution.

The Friends Board recommends voting for this 2017 revision of the Bylaws.

**Please come VOTE at the Annual Membership Meeting
Monday September 25, 2017, 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Library Community Room**