

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: Agenda Item #6
DATE: May 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Election of Council Executive Officers
PRESENTER: LSOHC Staff

Summary:

With all appointments/reappointments being fulfilled by the House, Senate, and Governor, LSOHC will be holding Executive Committee Elections at its meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Executive Committee elections take place in odd numbered years at the first Council meeting after appointments and/or reappointments are finalized by appointing authorities (Governor, House, Senate). The election process is described below in this memo.

Suggested Procedure:

Council members entertain nominations of self or others for the position of Chair, then proceed to the election processes, as outlined in "Election of Officers" (page 2 of this memo).

Governor Appointments:

David Hartwell
Jamie Swenson
Ashley Peters
Tom Saxhaug

House Appointments:

Kristin Eggerling
Dudley Edmondson
Rep. Leon Lillie
Rep. John Burkel

Senate Appointments:

Ron Schara
Mark Holsten
Sen. Foug Hawj
Sen. Andrew Lang

Voting Procedure:

LSOHC is subject to the open meeting law as set out in Chapter 13D. Chapter [13D.021](#) specifically states that meetings may be conducted remotely provided specific conditions are met, including that all votes are conducted by roll call. Therefore, if any members are attending remotely, *elections will be held by roll call.*

If all members in attendance are in person, votes may be cast with paper ballots.

Proxy Options:

LSOHC has a proxy policy that under normal meeting situations, members may use a proxy to vote for elections if no member is present via telephone or electronic means. Unfortunately, in the case of remote or hybrid meetings, until an exception is provided for us by leadership, we are not allowed to utilize proxies in remote or hybrid meetings.

Background:

Per LSOHC's [Council Operating Procedures \(revised 2020\)](#) :

Section I, C.2. Periodic Organization: Officers, Make up of Executive committee, Election of officers (how often), Nominations for officers and executive committee.

Membership Structure:

An executive committee structure will be made up of the following officers with members serving 2-year terms. Chair (1), Vice Chair (1), Secretary (1), Treasurer (1), Legislative Member (1)

Election of Officers:

- a. Nominations for executive committee positions - by written sign-up by member or nomination by another member. Executive committee positions shall be nominated and elected in the following order: chair (1); vice chair (1); secretary (1); treasurer (1); legislative member (1).
- b. Officer's terms are through the first Monday in January of the odd numbered year or until the date of the next election. Elections are to be held in January of the odd numbered year. The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer serve until a successor has been elected.
- c. Distribution of officers among appointing authorities:
 1. The chair will be elected from among the appointees of all appointing authorities (Governor, House and Senate).
 2. The vice chair will be elected from among the remaining appointees not appointed by the appointing authority of the chair.
 3. The secretary will be elected from among the remaining appointees not appointed by the appointing authorities of the chair and the vice chair.
 4. The treasurer will be elected from among all appointees
 5. The legislative member will be from either House or the Senate. If prior elections of officers yield an odd number of legislators as officers, then the legislative member's legislative affiliation will balance representation of the legislative bodies.
- d. Nomination and election of officers will be by the entire COUNCIL membership.
- e. A majority vote of the members present for each position is required.
- f. Elections will be by written ballot.
- g. Proxy: Members may vote by proxy for election of Executive Committee members only. If a member wishes to vote by proxy he/she shall provide his/her proxy to the COUNCIL staff and indicate the member he/she wishes to have the signed proxy given to.
- h. Vacancies in council offices will be filled by election within 45 days of receipt by the Council of written notification of vacancy.
- i. In order to allow the use of the proxy vote, participating members of the Council must be in the meeting room, not on the phone.
- j. If a member is participating via phone, the elections will take place via a roll call vote and proxies will not be allowed.

Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure states:

"Sec. 553. Majority Vote Required for Elections

1. In the absence of a special rule, a majority vote is necessary to elect officers and a plurality is not sufficient. A vote for the election of officers, when no candidate receives a majority vote, is of no effect, and the situation remains exactly as though no vote has been taken.
2. Absent a specific controlling provision, when in an election a quorum is present and a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, although a majority of the entire body fails to vote, the election is valid.

When provision for election is made without specifying the proportion of the vote, a majority of a quorum duly convened is sufficient."