

Bylaws discussion Sept, 14, 2026

In attendance on Zoom:

Joyce Thompson, Linda Yon, Delores O'Connell, Jeff Render, Kirk Becker, Karla Shopoff, Libby Amdur, Corliss Gibbons, Barbara Ganon, Bill Witt, Mary White, Carolyn Kershner, Nancy Wilkerson, Dan Marshall, Paula Crowley, Beth Paul

Meeting time: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Several people were having problems signing into the meeting.* Dan Marshall (Bylaws committee chair person) and other committee members answered questions about the proposed bylaws from those in attendance and from emailed questions sent to him prior to the meeting.

1. A big change in the PB (proposed bylaws) is the term for president. The change would be a one year term with no re-election. The following year, the vice-president would become the president. This allows for continuity in club management. After the president's term, he/she is eligible to run for any office or board seat. (e.g. vice president)
2. The Oversight Committee is replacing the Audit Committee (just a name change). The duties are essentially the same. The role of the Oversight Committee will be to work with the Treasurer to insure that the income/expense records are complete and accurate. A professional audit (which is expensive) would only be necessary if there was a problem. Paula suggested that an Oversight Committee was extraneous and that the board bears the responsibility of overseeing the day-to-day finances of the club. She also suggested that for any matters involving financial decisions that might majorly impact the club that the Development Committee, which is comprised of people with business and financial planning acumen, provide consult.
3. A development committee may be created as necessary (ad hoc). The purpose would be to make recommendations to the board regarding the club's future
4. The upper limit of expenditures (threshold) is changing to \$1000 (from \$500). Expenditures over \$1000 would need a majority membership vote. The reason for the increase is the increase in all costs in the last 6 years. The board will continue to approve expenditures less than the new \$1000 limit. Paula commented that there was no need to increase the expenditure threshold to \$1000 since that is a considerable amount of the club's money that the membership should have a say on and wondered what the club would need to spend \$1000 on. She also said that the club has cash reserves set aside for the large expenditure items like the dealing machine and BridgeMates.
5. The past president (starting in 2028) would no longer be an ex-officio member of the board. The reason is that the new president is the former vice president and has the information needed from the past president.
6. There was some discussion regarding an End of Year treasurer's report. The PB bylaws do not provide for that. Due to incomplete records as of 12/31 (bank & credit card statements) the first quarter report provided at the April general membership meeting was considered adequate. Paula commented that it is standard business practice to generate an end of the year report which is usually done at the end of January and suggested that the bi-annual reports provided from the treasurer and the membership meetings be synced to take place at the end of January and end of June instead of spring and fall. She also suggested modifying the listed treasurer's duties to delete the words, "...recommend appropriate financial policies" as this is the responsibility of the board.
7. The club's financial records are available to any member at any time per laws governing our 501c3 status. Paula suggested that a sentence be added to the treasurer's responsibilities in the proposed bylaws to make clear that any single member at any time is allowed access to the club's financial records to avoid any mis-interpretation of Article VIII Section 3a and since we shouldn't assume that laws governing our social club are widely known.
8. Paula suggested re-writing Article IV Section 3 defining the number of board members required for a quorum and the number required to pass new items as this section was not clearly written.

Questions and concerns can still be posed to the bylaws committee. Dan, Delores and Nancy have considered all comments so far and provided the club with a document that can guide GBC starting Jan 1, 2027 if accepted by a majority of the membership.

*If you have trouble with Zoom, you can download the free Zoom app – <https://zoom.us/download> – to your home computer, tablet or phone.