

FDGA BOD MEETING MINUTES

Friday May 29, 2020 at 7 PM

The FDGA Officers and Directors held an online Zoom meeting on Friday May 29th at 7 PM to discuss options concerning the Annual Membership Meeting and the upcoming election. In attendance was Judy Rummel, Beth Kennelley, Vicky Chisholm, and Courtney Quirie. Absent were Jan Bailie (unable to attend but voted *in absentia* via President Judy Rummel), Deedra Earl, Nicole Holland, and Tammy Hughes. This was an open meeting and several FDGA members joined the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Judy Rummel at 7:10 PM. Judy announced that the meeting would be to address the upcoming Annual Meeting and election voting including whether or not either or both could be held online under our current by-laws given the unusual circumstances caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

Beth Kennelley read the following into the minutes as an introduction to the questions to be addressed:

“Good afternoon,

The FDGA Officers and Directors will be holding an online Zoom meeting this evening (Friday May 29th) at 7 PM to discuss options concerning the Annual Membership Meeting and the upcoming election. This is an open meeting and the membership is invited to join the meeting as observers although comments & questions can be made through the Zoom chat function. I will be emailing and/or messaging additional information about the meeting to as many of our members as possible later this afternoon.

As everyone knows, these are unique times that we are living in right now. We’ve had to cancel two of FDGA’s premier functions: our 3-ring goat show and the Annual Conference. We do not want to cancel or delay the Annual Membership meeting if at all possible so we are looking at the idea of hosting the Annual Meeting online and of allowing online voting for the election. However, the FDGA Constitution and By-Laws were not written with a pandemic in mind and do not directly address these online options. The BOD wants to be sure that the steps we take in possibly providing FDGA members the options of an online Annual Membership Meeting and online election voting are within the scope of the FDGA BOD’s authority and that it is something that the FDGA membership is in favor of and would support.

The by-laws were updated several years ago to allow the Officers and Directors to meet online when originally all meetings had to take place in person. However, that update did not address general membership meetings. Article IV.3 of the FDGA Constitution stipulates that the Annual Membership Meeting is to be held in June of each year. Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID virus, meeting in person is not an option at this time. The first question is therefore, can we hold an online Annual Membership Meeting under the current by-laws in place of the in-person meeting? If not, what are our options?

Second, if we do hold an online Annual Membership Meeting, how do we address FDGA By-law Article V.2(f) which allows members attending the Annual Membership Meeting to hand-deliver their election ballot to the secretary no later than one hour prior to the Annual meeting.

I recently posted an opinion poll on the FDGA News FB page asking if the membership would be interested in an option for online anonymous voting. The response so far has been overwhelmingly in favor of the idea. Please keep in mind that this option would not do away with hard-copy ballots for those members that prefer to vote using a hard-copy ballot. This would only add online voting as an additional option for this special circumstance membership meeting/election. To add online voting to the by-laws as a permanent option would require a membership vote.

There are multiple software applications that would allow anonymous online voting. The member’s email address on-file with the Secretary would be used as a User ID and could be cross-referenced against addresses on hard-copy ballots received to ensure that no member is allowed more than one vote. The email addresses used for voting can be provided to the ballot committee in a report separate from the voting tally so that all votes remain anonymous.

Article IX.3 of the FDGA Constitution does state that “Final decision as to interpretation of any procedure in the Constitution and By-laws shall be determined by the current BOD.” However, we are only the representatives of the FDGA membership and it is our job to be sure that we are doing what the membership wants, especially under these extraordinary circumstances. We welcome any feedback that our members would like to offer at this time.”

Item 1: Can FDGA hold an online Annual Membership Meeting under the current by-laws in place of the in-person meeting given the current unusual circumstances?

Considerations:

- a. Article IV.3 of the FDGA Constitution stipulates that the Annual Membership Meeting is to be held in June of each year. Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID virus, meeting in person is not an option at this time.
- b. The FDGA Constitution and By-Laws were not written with a pandemic in mind and do not directly address an online membership meeting option.
- c. However, precedent was set earlier by the FDGA membership in changing the by-laws to allow the FDGA BOD meetings to be held on-line.
- d. Cancelling or rescheduling the Annual Meeting would not benefit the FDGA membership.
- e. Many members are already set-up to use online meetings.

Member input from attendees:

The by-laws should be amended in the future for emergency procedures (such as online meetings) but for now move forward with online meeting. Do not cancel or postpone the meeting especially with elections being held as a part of the meeting.

Motion:

Beth Kennelley moved that the club move forward with hosting the Annual Membership Meeting online on Saturday June 27, 2020 at 1 PM. Motion seconded by Courtney Quirie. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2: Should an online option for the Officer and Director election voting be added as a one-time special circumstance voting option for this year?

Considerations:

- a. By-law Article V.2(f) gives FDGA members attending the Annual Membership Meeting the right to hand-deliver their election ballot to the secretary no later than one hour prior to the Annual meeting.
- b. The online voting system would take the place of the hand-delivery option since the meeting will be held online.
- c. The voting system would have to be completely anonymous and not allow for double voting.
 - i. Log-in with provided password
 - ii. Email on file with FDGA Secretary to be used as User ID. (If no email, automatically mail out hard-copy).
 - iii. Email / User ID disabled after voting to ensure no double voting.
 - iv. List of emails (separate file from the vote so remains anonymous) that used online voting to be compared to addresses on file for those members using hard-copy voting to ensure a valid vote.
 - v. Allow online voting up to one hour before the meeting (noon on May 27, 2020).
 - vi. This would only add online voting as an additional option for this special circumstance membership meeting/election. To add online voting to the by-laws as a permanent option would require a membership vote.
 - vii. This option would not do away with hard-copy ballots for those members that prefer to vote using a hard-copy ballot.
 - viii. This option helps to support the needs on the entire membership especially for those people unable to leave their homes and get to the post office.
 - ix. We don't want to exclude anyone from being able to vote, be it online or by hard-copy.

Member input from attendees and poll:

An opinion poll was posted on the FDGA News FB page asking if the membership would be interested in an option for online anonymous voting. The response has been overwhelmingly in favor of the idea.

If offered as a part of the online membership meeting, could educational content from the meeting be made available to members after the meeting?

Times have changed and the club needs to move forward with those changes including online member meetings, educational meetings, etc.

Online voting gives the members immediate access to the election and you don't have to remember to go to the post office.

Motion:

Courtney Quirie moved that the club move forward with adding online voting as an additional option to the hard-copy voting option outlined in FDGA By-law Article V.2(f) for this election only due to the extraordinary circumstances facing the club at this time. Motion seconded by Vicky Chisholm. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Minutes from this meeting and notifications concerning the addition of online voting will be provided on the FDGA News FB Page, the FDGA website, via FB Messenger, and in the upcoming newsletter.

Hard-copy ballots will be prepared and will go in the mail for any member not on our FB page or without an email address on file.

Double-check member emails are correct for use in emailing the newsletter and the online voting option.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM