



STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION
MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2020
Monthly Meeting by Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: A phone conference meeting of the Government Law Section was called to order by Chair, Catherine Mulhaupt on November 7, 2020 at 10:01 am.

1. **Attendance and Excused Absences:**

Present: Bluhm, Fales, Fisher (joined at 10:05, dropped off at 10:55), Forbush, Kolb, Mills, Mithani, Mullhaupt, Sluggett, So (dropped off at 10:30), Stremers, Tamm, Walling, Watza (joined at 10:45), Zeits

Absent: Forsyth, Joppich, McGee, Nettleton, Rosati, Williams

Motion to Excuse Absences: Sluggett **Support:** Mills
Council approved by unanimous vote.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to Approve Agenda: Fales **Support:** Walling
Council approved by unanimous vote.

3. **Approval of October 10, 2020 Minutes:**

Motion to Approve Minutes: Mithani **Support:** Mills
Council approved by unanimous vote.

4. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Forbush reported that there are no updated financials from the State Bar. The Council did receive a \$4,000 invoice from MML for our joint amicus briefing in *Tschirhart v Troy*.

5. **Seminars and Meetings:**

a. **2021 Virtual Winter Seminar – Friday, February 12, 2021**

Mullhaupt raised various topics that need to be discussed to plan for the February meeting/winter seminar including registration, elements of virtual seminar, hosting platforms and topics/speakers.

Council settled on requiring registration for the winter seminar and charging a nominal fee (e.g., \$20) in order to track attendees and to ensure a commitment from registrants to attend the seminar. Mullhaupt to investigate whether the State Bar and/or MTA could possibly assist with administering the registration process (including collection of fees). Mullhaupt also to confirm State Bar deadlines in the event it assists with the administration of the winter seminar.

Council agreed that the virtual winter seminar should be ½ day or less given the difficulties people have with being tied to screens for extended, uninterrupted periods of time. After discussion, Council agreed to a three-hour seminar. Council also discussed offering sessions in “webinar” format in order to improve the clarity and professionalism of the presentations. Bluhm raised the importance of including some element of networking as part of the conference.

Council discussed various hosting platforms for the virtual winter seminar. Mullhaupt discussed the benefits of Socio, a platform used by MTA. Bluhm discussed aspects of Any Meeting (hosted by InterMedia). Council also reviewed aspects of MergeLive. Because the winter seminar will only be three hours and will likely have discrete single session presentations, Council agreed to use Zoom to host the winter seminar. Mithani and Mills will explore whether their firms can offer Zoom capabilities and support during the seminar. Mullhaupt will also explore whether the MTA can offer Zoom support at a cost.

Council briefly reviewed the materials related to diversity and inclusion previously provided by Stremers. Council further discussed the possibility of the winter seminar addressing issues of diversity and inclusion. Mills supported the idea of focusing on diversity and inclusion, noting that it might attract some section members who might not normally participate in our winter seminar. Council will continue to develop 2-3 topics to cover at the seminar.

c. **MAMA/GLS Summer Educational Conference.**

Mullhaupt stated that she will contact Chris Johnson at MML to discuss the contracts for the 2021 and 2022 summer conferences and whether/how to renegotiate the contracts in order to address potential cancellation due to the COVID pandemic.

6. **New Business:**

No new business.

7. **Old Business:**

Mills will contact Jennifer Hatter at the State Bar of Michigan to ask whether the State Bar can participate in our December meeting to explain how the State Bar can help increase attendance and participation in upcoming section seminars/conferences.

8. **Committees:**

a. **Amicus Committee:**

Mullhaupt clarified that the Amicus Committee members also include Fisher and Joppich, who were previously omitted from the Amicus Committee list.

b. ***Briefly* Committee.**

Mills advised that she and Jacob Fox are working on preparing a new issue of *Briefly* and expect that the issue will be circulated to members either before Thanksgiving or sometime in December.

c. **Social Media Committee.**

d. **Membership Committee.**

Mullhaupt will reach out to the Social Media and Membership Committees to schedule their first meeting of the fiscal year.

9. Correspondence:

Mullhaupt noted the materials that Stremers circulated in connection with issues of diversity and inclusion, including the MDCR Racial Equity Kit, the MDCR Racial Equity web portal and the SBM Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Roster.

10. Council comments:

Bluhm reported that the City of Troy filed a petition for *en banc* review of the recent decision in *International Outdoor, Inc. v City of Troy*, focusing on the plaintiff's lack of standing.

Mills encouraged members to remind their clients to provide feedback and/or comments to various municipal associations/groups regarding the recent Open Meetings Act legislation in order to ensure that communities are offering guidance on what to include (or not include) in the legislation going forward.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Walling

Support: Bluhm

Council approved by unanimous vote.

Council adjourned the meeting at 11:07 am.

Minutes taken by Mithani