

Divisions

Round Tables

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Hi, Tyler Dzuba!



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Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights



JoAnne Kempf 13 days ago

[📎 The ALA Executive Board met on July 20, 2018 and unanimously voted to allow an on-line vote of Coun...](#)

1. Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights [📎](#)

5

RECOMMEND

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JoAnne Kempf

ACTIONS ▾

Posted 13 days ago |  [view attached](#)

REPLY TO DISCUSSION ▾

The ALA Executive Board met on July 20, 2018 and unanimously voted to allow an on-line vote of Council on the Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (2017-2018 ALA CD#19.6_62617_act).

Discussion of this resolution will now proceed in this ALA Connect space from Thursday, July 26 through Thursday, August 9.

On Thursday, August 9, discussion will close and the poll will open. ALA Council will then proceed to an electronic ballot and vote on the resolution via Connect poll from August 9 through August 16. The ALA Governance Office staff will provide a link to the poll which will only be open to Councilors. Please note that this is not an anonymous poll as people's names will be associated with their votes the way they are in open Council meetings. The results of the vote will be announced on August 17.

As a reminder, for an on-line vote to be valid, at least 50 percent of Councilors must participate. According to the ALA By-laws, approval of the resolution in an electronic vote requires a 75 percent majority of those voting Yes or No.

The resolution is attached here for reference. Here is a link to the version Council approved at Annual 2018, which is currently in effect, and which the motion at hand would rescind: [Intellectual Freedom: Issues and Resources](#)

www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/...

If the current motion passes, we would revert to the 1991 version, which was in effect until Annual 2018:

alair.ala.org/handle/11213/1622

Then the IFC working group would draft their new revision and share it by 2018-10-01, which presumably we'll vote on at Midwinter after further revisions.

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JoAnne Kempf
Dir/Office of ALA Governance
American Library Association

Attachment(s)



[cd-19-3-19-8-62518-18AC \(1\).docx](#)

52K

1 version

2. RE: Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

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RECOMMEND



JoAnne Kempf

ACTIONS ▾

Posted 13 days ago

REPLY TO DISCUSSION ▾

Here is ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina's response to Michael Golrick's question about amending the resolution:

I understand that a Councilor is asking about the process of proposing an amendment to the on-line resolution on the Library Bill of Rights clause on **Meeting Rooms**.

On July 16th, President Loida Garcia-Febo posted my parliamentary opinion on whether the motion to rescind can be amended. Here are the first two relevant points I made in my reply:

1. Under Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, the motion to rescind is amendable, and this would be the case in an ordinary in-person meeting and in a synchronous electronic meeting, where members attend, debate, and vote in a synchronous manner.

2. In an asynchronous electronic vote of Council, such as the one that was taken last fall about the Executive Director degree requirement, it is virtually impossible to effectively and logically process amendments. Therefore, the asynchronous vote last fall was a straight yes/no vote on the proposal, and no amendments were accommodated. If a similar process is followed this time, it would not be practical to accommodate amendments.

Further to the posting of the above opinion, the motion to rescind was set up to be processed by **an asynchronous electronic vote**. Although, from a purely technical perspective, the motion to rescind is amendable, it seems logistically impossible to facilitate such a process, due to the following challenges:

1. To facilitate an amending process, there would need to be **at least two time periods** for the deliberations: **In the first period** there would be a debate and then a vote on the amendment. **In the second period**, there would be a debate and vote on the original resolution (if the amendment is defeated) or the amended resolution (if the amendment is adopted). It would be impossible to facilitate both votes within one time period, since the fate of the amendment (and hence the final wording of the resolution) would not be known. Things could get considerably more complicated if amendments to amendments and other parliamentary steps are taken.
2. If amendments to the resolution (and other procedures) are to be coherently debated and voted on, the only viable alternative is to hold **a synchronous electronic meeting**, as is the case for the virtual membership meeting. However, obtaining a quorum for a synchronous electronic meeting would seem like an insurmountable challenge, given that this process is taking place during the summer, and given that the quorum for electronic votes is **a majority of the entire council** (substantially more than the quorum of 75 Councilors which is required for an in-person Council meeting).

In light of the above complexities, I am able to identify three potential options:

Option one: If the proposed amendment is non-controversial, its proponents can seek its informal acceptance by the resolution's proponents prior to it being opened for a vote. This is probably the easiest and least disruptive option.

Option two: If option one does not resolve the issue, the amendment's proponents could withhold it, so as to allow the asynchronous process to proceed without amendments. In this case, if the amendment's proponents find the resolution unacceptable, they can vote against it or abstain from the vote.

Option three: Abandon the current process and attempt to convene a synchronous electronic Council meeting, with the hope that the extra high quorum requirement for synchronous attendance would be met. It is my understanding that a synchronous meeting would require substantial planning and staff efforts to organize.

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JoAnne Kempf
Dir/Office of ALA Governance
American Library Association

▶ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

3. RE: Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

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RECOMMEND



Michael Golrick

ACTIONS ▼

Posted 7 days ago

REPLY TO DISCUSSION ▼

Thank you JoAnne for asking for and posting the advice from our esteemed Parliamentarian.

My preferred wording for the second resolved is:

"and refers the Interpretation to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for revision."

If, however, that is not acceptable (Option 1), I am not concerned enough to ask for the actions implied in Option 2 or Option 3. I will serve notice that the discussion of the process of how we will handle amendments is important enough that I think it needs further exploration without a critical issue (this one) hanging in the balance.

Michael

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Michael Golrick
Round Tables

ASGCLA Division Councilor, 2018-2021

ASCLA President, 2016-2017

also, ALA CT Chapter Councilor (97-03), ALA EB (03-06), ALA Councilor at Large (06-12)

mailto:michael.golrick@gmail.com

► ORIGINAL MESSAGE

4. RE: Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

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RECOMMEND



Shanna Hollich

ACTIONS ▼

Posted 7 days ago

REPLY TO DISCUSSION ▼

Hello Michael (and everyone) -

My understanding (and others please correct me if I'm mistaken) is that the second resolved is worded the way it is because there is ALREADY a working group that IFC has convened to produce a new draft of the interpretation. In fact, the IFC Meeting Rooms Working Group, as it is so called, is currently soliciting feedback from the library community about a new draft: [Suggested Language & Resources for "Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights"](#)

The IFC Meeting Rooms Working Group has already publicly announced its goal to present a final draft to ALA Council by October 1, 2018.

So the second resolved is simply affirming work and deadlines that are already in progress and have already been agreed upon by the group doing the work. In light

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of that, it seems that a change in wording would be unnecessary.
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Respectfully,
-Shanna

Shanna Hollich
shollich@gmail.com

▶ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

5. RE: Resolution to Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

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RECOMMEND



JoAnne Kempf

ACTIONS ▼

Posted 13 days ago |  [view attached](#)

REPLY TO DISCUSSION ▼

I apologize - wrong document was attached. Here is the motion to rescind.

JoAnne Kempf
Dir/Office of ALA Governance
American Library Association

Attachment(s)



[Resolution To Rescind Meeting Rooms 07192018.pdf](#)

351K

1 version

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▶ ORIGINAL MESSAGE
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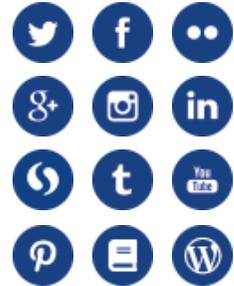
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