

WSFS Mark Protection Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Monday, 6 September 2010  
Room 216, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the World Science Fiction Society's Mark Protection Committee was called to order on Monday, 6 September 2010 at 10:20 AM in Room 216 of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia during Aussiecon Four, the 2010 World Science Fiction Convention.

Members Present: Scott Dennis (elected until 2012; Mr. Dennis left the meeting at 10:48 AM), Stephen Boucher (elected until 2011), Sandy Levy (appointed by Chicon 7 until 2014), Mark Linneman (appointed by Aussiecon 4 until 2012), Mark Olson (elected until 2011), Kevin Standlee (elected until 2013), Ian Stockdale (appointed by Renovation until 2013), René Walling (alternate appointed by Anticipation until 2011), Mike Willmoth (alternate appointed by ReConstruction until 2012), Ben Yalow (elected until 2013)

Members Absent: Linda Deneroff (elected until 2011), Donald Eastlake III (elected until 2012), Tim Illingworth (elected until 2013), Ruth Sachter (elected until 2012)

Also Attending: Rohan Wallace

Kent Bloom's appointment as Denvention 3's representative ended as of the end of the 2010 WSFS Business Meeting. Sandy Levy is Chicon 7's newly-seated appointee. Incumbent members Illingworth, Standlee, and Yalow were re-elected by the 2010 Business Meeting for three year terms ending at the 2013 Business Meeting.

2. Officers for 2010-11

Chairman: Ben Yalow and Kevin Standlee were nominated. Mr. Yalow received 5 votes and Mr. Standlee 3. Mr. Yalow assumed the Chair.

Treasurer: Scott Dennis was elected without objection.

Secretary: Linda Deneroff was elected without objection. Kevin Standlee acted as Secretary for this meeting.

Appointments: Mr. Yalow and Mr. Standlee will swap roles as e-mail respondents to the relatively small amount of non-spam e-mail that the MPC receives. Mr. Standlee will be the primary respondent, with Mr. Yalow as the backup when Mr. Standlee is unavailable.

3. Committees

Mark Olson expressed concern over conflicts of interest of members of the MPC or any of its subcommittees and said that he did not think members of the Hugo Awards Marketing Committee should be eligible for Hugo Awards. Mr. Standlee objected to such a policy, on the grounds that it would disqualify from service the person who has been doing most of the current HAMC's work (Cheryl Morgan). Mr. Standlee further noted that he is currently the only person whose name appears signing posts at the Hugo Awards web site.

There was a question as to whether someone could act as a site maintainer without being on the HAMC. The Chairman said that you should be a member of the HAMC in order to update the Hugo Awards web site, and said the committee appreciates the work that Cheryl Morgan did in setting up and maintaining TheHugoAwards.org. Mr. Standlee said that in his opinion Ms. Morgan is willing to step aside if other people would be willing to do the work necessary to keep the site maintained.

After further extensive debate, the committee adopted the following policy:

**MPC 2010-1:** Members of the Mark Protection Committee and any of its subcommittees must agree to decline nomination for a Hugo Award presented in a year following a year in which that person served in whole or in part.

The policy obviously cannot be applied retroactively and only applies from the date of its adoption.

Clarifying a *de facto* existing policy, the MPC agreed to the following policy:

**MPC 2010-2:** The Chairman of the Mark Protection Committee shall be *ex officio* a member of all subcommittees of the MPC.

### 3.1 Hugo Award Marketing Committee

There was a question raised about whether the HAMC does any marketing outside of the USA. This led to an unfocused discussion of how the HAMC does any marketing anywhere, including interaction with the individual Worldcon committees in which most of WSFS's authority is vested.

By unanimous consent, the MPC continued the Hugo Awards Marketing Committee with its current charge for another year. The Chairman appointed René Walling as Chairman of the HAMC and also re-appointed incumbent members Kate Kligman, Craig Miller, Cheryl Morgan, and Kevin Standlee. [Ms. Morgan, citing Policy MPC 2010-1 adopted above, subsequently declined re-nomination.]

The MPC officially extended its thanks to Cheryl Morgan for her work in establishing and maintaining TheHugoAwards.org.

HAMC Chairman Walling will prepare a slate of new appointees and submit it to the MPC for review and approval.

Mr. Olson requested that any member of the Mark Protection Committee be allowed to "audit" the HAMC mailing list. Mr. Standlee objected to this proposal, saying that by the same argument, any member of WSFS should be able to "audit" the MPC's e-mail list. Mr. Olson replied to the effect that the situations were not comparable. MPC Chairman Yalow said that having the MPC Chairman as an *ex officio* member should be sufficient oversight. The matter will be referred to the full MPC e-list for further discussion.

### 3.2 Worldcon Website Working Group

This committee needs a new leader, as Grant Kruger, the existing chairman, does not wish to continue in that role.

By unanimous consent, the MPC continued the Worldcon Website Working Group for another year. MPC Chairman Yalow will discuss the leadership and membership issues with the existing WWWG members and report back to the MPC e-list with new appointments.

## 4. New Business

### 4.1 Australian Agent

Rohan Wallace, an Australian intellectual-property attorney, addressed the MPC on certain IP issues. After the discussion, the Chairman instructed Mr. Standlee (who does most of the e-mail list maintenance) to add Mr. Wallace to the e-list with "may post, does not receive messages" access, so that he could send a more comprehensive message to the entire e-list.

The MPC adopted the following policy:

**MPC 2010-3:** The WSFS Mark Protection Committee authorizes Victorian Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. to act as Agent for the MPC in Australia, to investigate options for protecting WSFS's service marks in Australia, and to report to the MPC e-list when practical to do so.

[For purposes of disclosing potential conflicts of interest, note that MPC member Stephen Boucher is a director of VSFC Inc., the Australian not-for-profit association that ran Aussiecons Three and Four.]

#### 4.2 Canadian Agent

Mr. Standlee raised the matter of our long-deferred desire to register our marks in Canada. Mr. Walling gave a précis of the challenges that Adrienne Seel (Anticipation's permanent appointee to the MPC, who could not attend Aussiecon Four) has encountered in trying to work on our behalf, particularly as WSFS has no permanent legal entity in Canada to hold any marks we might register there. After further discussion, the MPC adopted the following policy:

**MPC 2010-4:** The WSFS Mark Protection Committee authorizes CanSMOF Inc. to act as Agent for the MPC in Canada, to investigate options for protecting WSFS's service marks in Canada, and to report to the MPC e-list when practical to do so.

[For purposes of disclosing potential conflicts of interest, note that MPC members Kevin Standlee and René Walling are directors of CanSMOF Inc., the Canadian non-profit corporation that ran Anticipation.]

#### 5. Announcements and Action Items

The Chairman directed the Acting Secretary (and the Secretary) to send him a fresh list of any deferred action items.

The next in-person meeting of the MPC should be on the evening of Wednesday, 17 August 2011, the first day of Renovation. The Chairman knows that the meeting needs to be on the convention schedule (the MPC's meetings at Aussiecon Four did not appear on the published schedule) and will formally request that Renovation take notice of this issue. There being several senior Renovation committee members present, it appears that the message was delivered.

The Chairman directed the Acting Secretary to inform our attorney, Esther Horwich, that Mr. Yalow is now the MPC's Chairman.

The Business Meeting having given unanimous consent to first passage to the changes to the service mark notice adding the Hugo Awards Logo and the Rocket Design to the list of marks we claim, the Chairman will inform our attorney that it is now okay to proceed on registering those two marks at her convenience.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Kevin Standlee  
Acting Secretary