

MINUTES OF THE MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE

August 15, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

The final meeting of the 2019 Mark Protection Committee (“MPC”) was called to order on August 15, 2019, at 4:18 p.m. in Wicklow Room 4 of the Dublin Convention Centre in Dublin, Ireland.

Members present were Judy Bemis (elected until 2021), Stephen Boucher (elected until 2021), Joni Dashoff (appointed by Worldcon 76 until 2020), Linda Deneroff (elected until 2020), Paul Dormer (appointed by Dublin 2019 an Irish Worldcon until 2021), Donald E. Eastlake III (elected until 2021), Dave McCarty (elected until 2020), Kevin Standlee (elected until 2019), Mike Willmoth (appointed by NASFiC 2019 until 2021), and Ben Yalow (elected until 2019). Bruce Farr also attended. He is a non-voting member appointed to the board of Worldcon Intellectual Property to meet a corporate requirement, and he is also Treasurer.

Kevin announced that he was not prepared to chair the MPC for the 2019-2020 year; however, Don was prepared to take on that position.

The MPC agreed that if the WSFS Business Meeting were over on Sunday, it would meet at 10 a.m. on Monday; if the Business Meeting continued on Monday, the MPC would meet 15 minutes after the conclusion of the Business Meeting.

The MPC is expecting a donation for its text-only Internet coverage of the Retro Hugo Awards and the Hugo Awards. It will cost somewhere between \$175 and \$200. Kevin will turn it off by end of month to avoid additional charges.

The MPC agreed we should pay Richard Mann \$100 for his photographs of the Hugo Award trophies as long as he acknowledges our copyright. We will be able to use the photos henceforth, and this is a token payment that preserves his professional standing.

Don had a domain name receipt and gave it to Bruce.

The nomination of Archive of Our Own (“AO3”) has caused headaches regarding the use of our trademarks by a group marketing a pin to content-creators on the website. The seller ignored our attempt to take down their trademark violation, but our European service mark served us well: Etsy took down the website immediately.

We have to pay attention to Brexit, particularly if they crash out with no deal, and don’t duplicate trademarks. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously for the MPC Officers to authorize our attorneys to register our marks in the European arena wherever we might lose them as a result of Brexit.

Ben reviewed our budget. He took the items that show up every year and amortized them over ten years. We probably have to renew one mark a year, which on average costs about \$1,700 a year. As long as we have a big enough balance to absorb the years when our expenses peak, we should be okay. Again the MPC discussed whether it should change the Worldcon’s payment to MPC from \$X per vote to \$Y per WSFS member (anyone with voting rights). Whatever the scheme, it should be something that brings in about \$2,000 a year. However, \$2,500-3,000 would be even better since we don’t have enough funds to cover a minor challenge, and we have to go to fandom for a large challenge. It would be best to have a spare \$5,000 in the bank as a reserve fund. When we make a request to the Business Meeting, this is the sort of number we should look at for generating income. Unopposed elections don’t have as much participation, and recently none of them has hit \$2,000,

which the contested years have. Therefore, if we need to assure ourselves of \$2,000 per year, we should change the format of our request/suggested donation. The number of votes per year is a smaller variance than the number of members of the convention.

We will continue to talk about this in the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.