

**MINUTES OF THE MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**August 1, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Members of the Mark Protection Committee (“MPC”) present at the meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, and held via Zoom on August 2, 2020, at 10 a.m. (NZST), were Judy Bemis (elected until 2021), Paul Dormer (appointed by Dublin 2019 an Irish Worldcon until 2021), Cliff Dunn (appointed by Discon III until 2023), Ron Oakes (appointed by NASFiC 2020 until 2022), Daniel Spector (appointed by ConZealand until 2023), Kevin Standlee (elected until 2022), Jo Van Ekeren (elected until 2022), Mike Willmoth (appointed NASFiC 2019), Ben Yalow (elected until 2022), and Bruce Farr as WIP Director and Treasurer. Helen Montgomery attended as interim MPC member for Chicago in 2022, appointed by the chair of Chicon 8 (also Helen Montgomery). Guests were Kendell Bullen, Joni Dashoff, Linda Deneroff, Erica Frank, Richard Grigg, and Bill Taylor. This was also the annual general meeting of Worldcon Intellectual Property (“WIP”), a California nonprofit corporation consisting of every member of the MPC.

There were three positions open for the terms that expired for John Coxon, Linda Deneroff, and Dave McCarty.

Since Don Eastlake was absent, Jo Van would have been the presiding officer, but she ceded the job to Kevin with no objections.

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. NZST time.

The first order of business was to fill the interim vacancies on the MPC created by the business meeting adjourning without electing MPC members. Next year’s Worldcon will elect six people to the MPC, with three positions for 3 years and three more for 2 years. Without objection, John Coxon, Linda Deneroff, and Dave McCarty were appointed for one year, and their terms will end at the close of the next WSFS Business Meeting or until such time as the Business Meeting holds an election.

Ben asked for an official ruling from the chair regarding the size of the quorum. With the appointment of these interim members, the size of the quorum increased to eight people (nine were present).

To meet the requirements of California law for WIP and without objection, Bruce Farr was reappointed to serve as a nonvoting director of the organization.

Kevin passed the gavel to Ben for purpose of choosing the officers of MPC/WIP. By unanimous consent, Jo Van Ekeren was elected as chair, Kevin Standlee as vice chair, Linda Deneroff as secretary, and Bruce Farr as treasurer.

Kevin then resumed presiding over the meeting.

Ron asked if we are looking to register the mark for Lodestar and inform our attorneys, Esther Horwitz in the U.S. and Clark Wilmott in the UK. We should also notify our solicitors of our new chair and that they are to take direction from Jo Van.

For the past few years, It has been our responsibility to provide Worldcons and NASFiCs with the boilerplate text regarding our marks, and we need to add “Lodestar” to that text. We will also add Lodestar to the list of marks to officially register. There are already about 150 Lodestar marks, and we will need to determine which ones, if any, will conflict. We should at least get the ball rolling this year in

the U.S. and, if it's not too difficult, ask Clark Willmott to do register it in the EU or UK (depending on Brexit status).

There is something called Lodestar Media in New Zealand, but Jo Van believes it is moribund. The New Zealand website is:

<https://app.iponz.govt.nz/app/Extra/IP/TM/PublicSearch/PublicSearch.aspx?sid=637319613278238281>.

In 2018 Syd Weinstein suggested that we pursue a Google suite for nonprofits to host our streaming. We have the GSuite account, but we have not done anything with it yet. Joni will ask Syd if he wants to administer the GSuite and have him contact Linda for the information he will need.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will probably be on the first day of Discon 3. However, it might be in our best interest to meet some time in December around the time SMOFCon might be held, to check our progress on these items. The first Saturday in December is a likely target date, but we should wait and see what Montreal is planning.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. NZST on August 2, 2020.