Rowan Hoskyns Abrahall - Manifesto - 2020

Candidacy for President, Open Source Matters Inc.

This manifesto serves to lay out my intentions for 2020 should I be re-elected as President of Open Source Matters Inc. and the Joomla Project. This document solely talks about my future intentions should I be re-elected, part 1 of the 3 pillars of a manifesto (Intentions, Motives, Views). By the 7th of February 2020, my report, part 2, on my time as President will be published to demonstrate my motives. Part 3, to show my views will also be published this coming week and will include a report on the recent FftF alongside a personal statement.

Progress in 2019 was slow even for Joomla standards, and therefore I find myself in the position of having the solemn duty to run for another term. This is solely to ensure that all of the hard work, blood, sweat and tears I (and all those pushing for a change) have put into this project since I joined Leadership 3.5 years ago actually sticks and becomes reality.

Sadly, we must appeal our 501c3 application, as this was rejected for a very vague (and invalid) reason. A potential change of 2 Officers at this juncture, including the Officer (myself) who signed the original application, would put that appeal in jeopardy.

I am going to Washington DC (as the person who signed the application) in just over 2 weeks to visit the IRS in person. This should get the ball rolling again and if we can convince the IRS, which we are confident we can, we should see the 501c3 granted within a few months of the visit.

I have highlighted the importance of the 501c3 in the past and will be writing a further piece in the coming week, to be published well in advance of our visit to the IRS and the opening of ballots explaining why this is so important to the future of our project.

We must change the project bank. Our current bank is a corporate bank and is far from geared up to best serve a Not for Profit, let alone a full-blown 501c3. A potential change of the 2 sole Signers on the account at this juncture would make this process much harder, by sending the wrong signals (instability in leadership) to a new bank. This will take some time to complete, we should move bank when the 501c3 is set up properly so there is only one Signer visit to do the change, this will keep the costs down.

I would like to finish changing our election system. This would also allow me to only serve another 6-months (in order to achieve the changes laid out below, someone needs to be out of step, who better than the woman who falls over all the time?).

I will be finished by the time the next cycle comes up and 4 years straight in Volunteer Leadership is enough, for even, me. So, whatever happens, I will be stepping down at the next election cycle in the summer.

I believe that the President and Vice President should run on the same ticket, and the Treasurer and Secretary should do the same on a different cycle. From a mere financial point of view, having a potential simultaneous change of both Signers in an organisation makes it vulnerable, this is the way it works in Joomla right now.

If re-elected, I would move to a community-wide vote and change in the bylaws before the next cycle, these changes are:

- President and Vice President are moved to the Summer Election Cycle. These two officers should be a tight-knit team. The VP is there to support the President and to share the workload. They should run together on a joint ticket to ensure cohesion in the board and stable leadership throughout the project by leading by example.
- Treasurer has term extended in 2020 to the Winter Election Cycle in 2021 where that role and the Secretary go up together. These two officers are our back office, they need to work as a smooth and effective administrative team (although the rapport necessary for this is much lower than that between the President and Vice President).
- I would also like to propose by community-wide vote that Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) serve 2-year terms. These positions are the pillars of the organisation and 1-year terms just cause havoc with these roles. DC's/Directors would stay as 1-year terms.

I hope that I have made it clear that if I fail to be elected, the work listed above runs a high chance of never being completed, which is almost guaranteed to put the project at risk of stepping back at least 2 years in time when its best chance for survival is to drive forwards.

I would also like the chance to continue the streamlining, optimisation and improvement of our project sites to steer our public image from one of a dated "dishwasher manual" to one of professionalism and stability, something I have been working on since I stepped up to the plate in 2016.

I would very much appreciate being granted the opportunity to complete what I have started. We are so close, and after the huge success and energy seen at the FftF, I believe I am best placed to ensure this continues to fruition. I can then step down with grace, leaving my successors to lead a healthy thriving product-driven professional, accountable, thoughtful, innovative, relevant, people-centric organisation that is responsible for around 1 in every 35 websites on the known internet.

Thank you.

Rowan.