

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 2.00pm on 5th February 2016 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Seóirse Bodley, Rhona Clarke, Michael Holohan (joined the meeting at the end), Brian Lynch, Shelley McNamara, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Jane O’Leary, Vivienne Roche.

Apologies: Anthony Cronin

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar

Welcome

Newly elected member of the Toscaireacht Michael Holohan (who joined the meeting later) was welcomed in his absence. Members noted their thanks to Sam Walsh for his valuable contribution as a member of the Toscaireacht during the previous term.

Election of chair

BL proposed Mary FitzGerald as Chair of the Toscaireacht for the new term. This was unanimously seconded.

Previous minutes and matters arising

JO’L proposed and RC seconded the minutes as an accurate reflection of the meeting

VR and MF require additional time to identify work done to date on the review of discipline ballot stage and will prepare something for the next meeting.

Aosdána email address

Following on from a concern that public statements issued by the Toscaireacht via an Arts Council email address could be construed as statements by the Arts Council MF has created a gmail account for the circulation of Aosdána public statements and press releases.

Replies from Ministers

An acknowledgement letter was received from Minister Humphreys for the recent correspondence on the lack of consultation of public bodies by DAHG in relation to heritage sites. Mr. Flanagan’s office acknowledged receipt of a copy of the letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Resignation of Robert Ballagh from Aosdána

A letter of resignation from membership of Aosdána has been received from Robert Ballagh. The Toscaireacht will write to him acknowledging with regret his resignation.

Appointment to Dublin City Council Arts and Culture Group

Shane deBlacam has agreed for his name to go forward for nomination to the Arts and Culture Group of Dublin City Council. DCC will let MF know when the process has been finalised.

Howth Literary Festival

Howth Literary Festival organisers have extended an invitation for an Aosdána member who knew Patrick Collins to participate in a panel discussion about his work.

Discipline Ballot Results

As a result of the recent discipline ballot 12 nominations will go through to the General Assembly for the third stage of voting. In addition, 7 nominations are carried over from the previous GA. There are currently 246 members so a maximum of four new members can be voted in. Members are to be reminded in the next correspondence about the confidential nature of the process. Nominators are to be reminded that canvassing is unacceptable.

General Assembly

Libraries theme as topic for discussion

It was agreed that Mairead Owens (County Librarian, DlrCoCo) and Dr. Ellen Rowley (TCD), and Ben Dwyer would be invited to address the GA on the topic of libraries and to participate in a panel discussion. BL agreed to chair the panel. Tom McCarthy will be invited to participate in the panel also.

EniD and SMcN made their apologies and left the meeting at 3.05pm to attend previous engagements.

It was also proposed that SMcN would participate in the panel discussion given her involvement in the design of the new Dublin City Library building. It was proposed that SMcN approach Dr. Rowley.

Toscaireacht Report

MF will table a draft Toscaireacht report at the next meeting.

Call for motions

A call for motions will be issued in the upcoming correspondence to members.

Michael Holohan joined the meeting following an unavoidable delay due to a traffic accident on the motorway.

Communication to membership

The next communication to membership will include notices concerning recent letters issued by the Toscaireacht, the resignation of Robert Ballagh, call for motions for GA 2016 together with a copy or link to the recent statement issued to the press on the Dublin city plan.

AOB

Thanks were extended to BL for composing the text of the press statement on the city plan and recent letters.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd March at 2.30pm.