

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 12 July 2005

Time: 13.30

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present:

Anthony Cronin

Cecily Brennan

Theo Dorgan

Jennifer Johnston

Alice Maher

In attendance: Paul Johnson (Registrar), Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes).

Papers before the meeting

Minutes of meeting 26 April 2005

Draft General Assembly minutes

Letter from Marsh Ireland

1. Election of Chairperson

Theo Dorgan was nominated to chair for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Seóirse Bodley, Clare Boylan, Roger Doyle, Paul Durcan and Michael Kane.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.1 Artists' Re-sale Rights

A discussion was held on the matter of artists' re-sale rights. A new organisation IVARO has been set up with the intention to act as a collecting agency on the matter.

Theo Dorgan clarified that the right to assign collection rights will probably be designated to the Arts Council who will in turn nominate an organisation to collect monies for re-sale rights.

Theo Dorgan said that the Arts Council is at one with the Aosdána motion on this matter.

Alice Maher confirmed that IVARO is also at one with this motion.

3.2 Aosdána Pension Scheme

The Registrar received a response from Marsh Ireland this morning. A copy of the letter was distributed at the meeting.

The Registrar will acknowledge receipt of the letter.

It was agreed that a meeting be requested between the Director and the Finance Manager of the Arts Council and representatives of the Toscaireacht to discuss:

- the current pension scheme
- other options
- the portability of the current scheme

Marsh Ireland had agreed to provide an FAQ for members of the pension scheme. This has not yet been provided.

3.3 Chair of meetings

Jennifer Johnston confirmed that she was happy with the outcome of the discussion previously held on this matter and that there was no need for any further discussion.

3.4 Spokesperson for Aosdána

It was agreed that Theo Dorgan will be the Spokesperson for Aosdána. He will reply in print form to public, printed statements about Aosdána 'on behalf of Aosdána'. The Director of the Arts Council will be informed that a Spokesperson has been nominated.

The matter of the image of Aosdána within the affiliation itself was discussed. There are a number of myths, even among members of Aosdána, about those in receipt of the Cnuas.

A member of the Toscaireacht was surprised at remarks made by another member of Aosdána at the recent General Assembly about alleged irregularities. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the member to outline that the Toscaireacht was collectively perturbed by the remarks and to offer the opportunity to clarify the matter.

It was agreed that a one page document would be drafted outlining common misconceptions about Aosdána.

Theo Dorgan agreed to draft this document for the next meeting. All suggestions regarding content should be sent to the Registrar who will pass them on to Theo.

4. General Assembly Elections

The matter of abstention needs to be clarified for members. It was agreed that David McConnell would be invited to the next Toscaireacht meeting to explain the historical voting procedures to the Toscairí.

The Toscairí asked if a person can be elected with a small number of votes. The Registrar will respond to this at the next meeting.

5. 2006 General Assembly

The Toscairí agreed that the Assembly was held too late this year and agreed that the 2006 Assembly should be held in early 2006.

They also expressed a wish to have the Assembly in Dublin Castle.

6. Press Release

The Toscairí agreed to issue a press statement in relation to artists' tax exemption. Theo Dorgan requested that the release be forwarded to him for approval prior to its release.

7. Draft General Assembly Minutes

The Toscairí read through the minutes and made relevant changes. Theo Dorgan left the room from 15.46 to 16.05 during which time Anthony Cronin took the chair.

8. Matters Arising from the Draft General Assembly minutes

8.1 Letter to Taoiseach

The Toscairí agreed to send a letter to the Taoiseach to welcome his recent remarks made during a visit to the Arts Council.

8.2 Postal votes and motions

Theo Dorgan requested that for a longer lead-in time for postal votes to be established. He also suggested that members be reminded in advance of the General Assembly, that only motions agreed by the Toscairí in advance can be included on the agenda for discussion on the day of the Assembly.

A custom has arisen in recent years whereby motions are put forward on the day. This should only be done in exceptional circumstances, in which case standing orders must be suspended in order to allow the motion go forward.

8.3 Attendance at General Assembly

The Toscairí expressed concern at the number of people who leave the assembly after lunch.

8.4 Definition of artists/membership of Aosdána

Jennifer Johnston asked why theatre directors are not allowed to become members of Aosdána. A short discussion was held on the matter and it was agreed to defer the discussion to the next meeting so as to allow more time on the matter.

8.5 AOB

Cecily Brennan and Alice Maher expressed for the record their dissatisfaction about the response from Marsh Ireland.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 6 or Monday 10 October.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 16.30.

ENDS