

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 26 April 2005

Time: 13.30

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

Present:

Anthony Cronin

Roger Doyle

Theo Dorgan (until 15.00)

Jennifer Johnston

Alice Maher

Michael Kane (from 14.20)

In attendance: Paul Johnson (Registrar), Rose King (Artists' Services Assistant, minutes).

Papers before the meeting

Minutes of meeting 24 March 2005

1. Election of Chairperson

Roger Doyle was nominated to chair for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Seóirse Bodley, Cecily Brennan and Paul Durcan

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the agreed changes.

4. Chairperson

Jennifer Johnston queried if one Chair could chair all Toscaireacht meetings for the entire year. This is not feasible as the same Chair may not be able to attend all the meetings. Jennifer requested that the topic be discussed again. Anthony Cronin suggested that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Michael Kane joined the meeting.

5. General Assembly

Theo Dorgan requested that a copy of the Directive 2001/84/EC (Artists Re-sale Rights) be included with the papers at the General Assembly. At the Registrar's suggestion it was agreed instead that a number of copies of the Directive would be made available on the day of the General Assembly.

6. General Assembly Elections

Roger Doyle raised the issue of voting in the General Assembly elections. A brief discussion was held about the value of yes, no and abstention votes. The Toscaireacht agreed to defer this item for further discussion at the next meeting following the General Assembly.

The Registrar left the meeting at 14.40 to get a copy of the members' handbook and re-entered the meeting at 14.43.

Theo Dorgan left the meeting.

Roger Doyle highlighted the misspelling of a nominee's surname. The correct spelling is Cummings.

7. Draft Report of the Toscaireacht to the General Assembly

At Anthony Cronin's suggestion it was agreed to take the items on the Toscaireacht report seriatim.

8. Aodána and the Media

The Toscaireacht discussed media attitudes towards Aodána. It was agreed that the Toscaireacht in principle will have one spokesperson for Aodána to clarify inaccurate or misleading media statements about the affiliation.

9. Aodána Website

Alice Maher highlighted the fact that the website should state that an Irish language version is available as opposed to an Irish version. It was agreed that this would be rectified.

10. Aodána Minutes on Arts Council Website

The Registrar stated that the minutes of the Toscaireacht were posted having been approved by the Toscaireacht. He also confirmed on request that the minutes were up to date. Anthony Cronin suggested that the postal address and fax number for Aodána should be on the Aodána website to facilitate those who do not have access to email. The Registrar confirmed that this would be done.

11. Motions to be Discussed at General Assembly

Philip Casey motion

It was agreed that Philip Casey should speak on his motion regarding the Abbey Theatre. Motion in the name of Philip Casey as follows:

'In building a new Abbey Theatre, the government has a unique opportunity to sanction a purpose-designed artistic, art music, theatrical, literary, and archive complex or district worthy of a capital Aodána calls upon it to do so'

Alice Maher motion

Alice Maher asked if there is a time limit on the people speaking to motions at the General Assembly. She also questioned if each motion had to be seconded on the day. The consensus was that as it is in the rules it must be seconded.

The motion received from Alice Maher was discussed and the following wording was agreed:

'Aodána welcomes the introduction of Directive 2001/84/EC (Artists' Re-sale Rights) on January 1st 2006, which will redress the balance between the economic situation of authors of graphic and plastic works of art and that of other creators who benefit from successive exploitations of their works. Aodána calls on the government to enter immediately into discussions with all appropriate bodies, including the Arts Council to ensure that the exercise of the re-sale right is effectively managed on its introduction.'

Finally Aosdána calls on the government to implement the directive in full and not seek derogation (article 8.2) of the Directive which excludes the heirs of deceased artists'.

Margaretta D'Arcy motion (1)

The Registrar received a motion from Margaretta D'Arcy who requested that a number of young artists be admitted to the General Assembly. The matter was discussed by the Toscaireacht. They are bound by the rules of Aosdána. They did however agree that the artists were welcome to attend the AGM but that they wouldn't be allowed speak at the meeting. They also agreed that Margaretta D'Arcy can read a statement on behalf of the artists at the General Assembly. The motion is as follows:

'Aosdána calls for a review of how the Department of Social and Family Affairs officially regards the work of artists. At present the Department views artists' work as non-employment. It insists artists seek work in other fields of insurable employment (employment that pays PRSI) and refuses to social welfare payments to artists who are not supported by their work. This means that artists are in fact not recognised for their work or social input in the eyes of the State'.

Margaretta D'Arcy motion (2)

Margaretta D'Arcy's second motion regarding the Shannon stopover was deemed irrelevant to the proceedings.

12. Pension Scheme

Cecily Brennan and Alice Maher met with a representative from Marsh's Insurance Brokers and reported back on their meeting. They asked the representative to prepare a report for Aosdána members as a source of information.

The registrar reiterated the following regarding the pension scheme:

- This is a private personal pension plan
- People can supplement the pension if they so wish
- If somebody wants to find out more information and become more proactively involved they can contact Marsh's Insurance Brokers directly.

13. AOB

Chairperson at the General Assembly

Alice Maher nominated Roger Doyle to chair the General Assembly. Jennifer Johnston seconded the nomination.

A discussion was held regarding item 6 (Nominations in the Music Discipline) of the previous meeting's minutes.

Michael Kane left the meeting at 16.25.

Jennifer Johnston left the meeting at 16.30.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 16.40.

ENDS