

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 6 October 2005

Time: 13.30

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

Present:

Seoirse Bodley
Anthony Cronin
Theo Dorgan
Roger Doyle
Alice Maher

In attendance:

Paul Johnson (Registrar)
Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

Papers before the meeting

Minutes of meeting on 12 July 2005
Draft schedule for nominations
Correspondence

1. Election of Chairperson

Anthony Cronin was nominated to chair for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Clare Boylan, Cecily Brennan, Paul Durcan, Jennifer Johnston, Michael Kane.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

Subject to some small changes the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Under Matters Arising Theo Dorgan apologised for not having produced the one page document. He requested that if his fellow Toscairí had suggestions for this document that they should be sent on to him. He agreed to draft the document for the next meeting.

A discussion was held on the matter of the definition of artists who are eligible for membership of Aosdána.

4. Nominations process & General Assembly

The Registrar confirmed that it has not been possible to secure a booking for the 2006 General Assembly in Dublin Castle for the early part of the year. He suggested using Royal Hospital Kilmainham or to postpone the Assembly until autumn 2006 and to try to secure Dublin Castle for that time.

A discussion ensued on the matter and it was agreed that the Royal Hospital Kilmainham should be booked as the venue for the 2006 General Assembly and that it should happen in the early part of the year.

Theo Dorgan left the meeting at 14.48.

The Registrar distributed a copy of the draft schedule for the lead up to the General Assembly. The members agreed to the schedule subject to one change. The nomination process should be extended to 5 weeks with subsequent deadlines amended accordingly to facilitate the General Assembly in February.

5. New members' reception

A discussion was held about options for the new members' reception. The Registrar will discuss the matter with the Arts Council's Press and Communications Officer.

6. Update on Pension Scheme

It was agreed that this item be deferred to another meeting.

7. Correspondence

The Toscairí considered the correspondence from the Irish Equity Group and Feargal Ó Béarra.

They also noted the response to a recent letter from An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

8. Definition of artists/membership of Aosdána

It was agreed that this matter needs further clarification and that this should inform future discussions.

9. AOB

9.1 Staffing Structures in the Arts Council

Anthony Cronin raised the issue of the fact that there are no Artform Officers in the Arts Council. They have been replaced by Specialists. He feels that the support in literature is minimal since the new structure of Artform Specialists was put in place and that it is not possible to get anyone to attend to complaints. He noted however that he understands from Theo Dorgan that there will be an emphasis on having staff responsible for specific areas of work and relevant work teams designated to these areas. The focus on programme areas will remain. There will not be a reversion of the old artform structure.

9.2 Aosdána signage

The Toscairí reviewed the mock ups for Aosdána signage.

9.3 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 23 November 2005.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 15.20.

ENDS