

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 7th January 2016 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Rhona Clarke, Brian Lynch, Shelley McNamara, Jane O'Leary, Vivienne Roche

Apologies: Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Samuel Walsh

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar

Members expressed their thanks to Sam Walsh for his valued contribution during his term on the Toscaireacht. MF will follow up with thank you letter.

Previous minutes and matters arising

VR proposed and BL seconded the minutes as an accurate reflection of the meeting

VR and MF will attend to review of discipline ballot stage starting with identifying the work done to date on this and will prepare something for the next meeting.

VR proposed and JO'L seconded.

Draft letter on lack of consultation of public bodies by DAHG regarding the use of heritage sites and sites of national importance was tabled. BL and SMcN will rewrite for next meeting.

MF will liaise with Registrar on advice to be sought from the Arts Council's financial advisers regarding tax and financial issues as previously raised by members.

Condolences

MF wrote a letter of condolence to Alannah Hopkins on the sad passing of Aidan Higgins. Derek Mahon attended the funeral on behalf of members. MF will write to thank him.

General Assembly

It was agreed that it would be very positive to continue the recent practice of having an invited speaker for the second part of the day. The theme of libraries as arising from the previous GA would be a fitting focus. This idea will be further developed and discussed at the next meeting.

AK will have list of GA tasks/items for decision and consideration for the next meeting.

Letter from Margaretta D'Arcy

BL will draft letter to Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on issue of freedom of speech and the sentencing of the poet Ashraf Fayadh. Final letter will be cc'd to Minister for Foreign Affairs. Toscaireacht will keep a watching brief on the situation.

Libraries and Irish Writers

See notes under GA item.

Dublin City Council – Arts Advisory Group nominees

Following John Tuomey's very successful term on DCC's Arts Advisory Group, Ruairi O'Cuiv is now seeking one male and one female Aosdána nominee from the Architecture discipline for a place on the committee. SMcN will approach members who do not have conflicts of interest to ask if they are happy to be nominated.

AOB

SMcN and BL will draft the wording for a statement regarding the proposed €7.6 billion development plan in Dublin and circulate it to Toscaireacht members.

The term of the present Toscaireacht ends on 19th January. VR proposed and it was unanimously agreed that MF would remain as Chair until such time as a new Chair is agreed. The members thanked MF most sincerely for her excellent and valued contribution as Chair to date.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting ended.