

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Ltd
62nd Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday 9th August 2017 at 6.00pm
WSREC, 39 Napierhall Street, Glasgow, G20 6EZ

Minutes

Present

Board of Directors

1. Hanzala Malik (HM) Chair
2. Vince Chudy (VC)
3. Harriette Campbell (HC)
4. Haji Mohammed Munir (MM)
5. Dr Malcolm Green (MG)
6. Onkar Singh Jandu (OSJ)
7. Sheela Mukherjee (SM)
8. John Service (JS)
9. Munir Choudry (MC)
10. Syed Jafri (SJ)
11. Antony Kozlowski (AK)
12. Anne McTaggart (AM)

Observers

In attendance

- Mohammed Razaq (MR)
Ghzala Khan (GK)

Welcome

Chair, Hanzala Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Board of Directors

1. Cllr Rashid Hussain (RH)
2. Sharon Schlesinger (SS)
3. DR Javed Gill (JG)
4. Tunweer Malik (TM)

Observers

Stuart Cassidy – COPFS

2. Presentation on one of WSREC's projects

A presentation on WSREC's 'Qurbani (sacrifice) Food Initiative' was made by Mohammed Razaq. It was a quick summary on what the project had achieved over the last 7 years.

Background to the project:

- Staff member of WSREC thought of the idea.
- During the celebration of Eid al-Adha "Festival of Sacrifice", Muslims commemorate the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God but instead was able to sacrifice a ram (by God's command).
- The meat from the sacrifice of Eid al-Adha is mostly given away to others. One-third is consumed by immediate family and relatives, one-third is given away to friends, **and one-third is donated to the poor.**
- In the past, it has been difficult to distribute to the poor in Glasgow; due to a lack of awareness and health and safety issues. The project has managed to be the conduit between the Muslim community and the deserving homeless/destitute for the Qurbani meat.

Combined result/information of the initiative

- Project now in its 7th year (began in 2010) in partnership with Lodging House Mission
- 1,672 kilos of Qurbani Meat offered during the project lifetime of the project so far
- Translates to 9,196 meals
- Project has been run voluntarily by WSREC staff/volunteers
- Supported 'Fusion Scotland' in Edinburgh to replicate our project and partner with Edinburgh Cerenians who provide a soup kitchen

After a number of questions and answers the Board thanked Mohammed Razaq and WSREC staff for such excellent and successful initiative that supported our most vulnerable communities.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 5th July 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record proposed by AK and seconded by MM.

4. Matters Arising

There were none

For discussion

5. Reports

a. Executive Directors Report

There were no questions on the Executive Directors report. The Board was noted the report

b. Partner Reports

There were none

For Decision

6. Annual Accounts 2016/17

Stuart Aiton of Stuart Aiton & Co WSREC's Auditors spoke to the accounts and Letter from the Auditors which had been circulated before the meeting.

Stuart went over the contents of the letter with braid headings as note below:

- Accounting practices
- any findings of the audit

Action for the coming year

- Leases
- Pensions
- Invoices
- Related Party register

Stuart mentioned Strathclyde Pensions Scheme (SPF) at length and how the process had been this year to new regulations (FRS102) that have come into force meaning WSREC to state within its accounts the state of the this pension schemes. There were no issue with Auto enrolment where the majority of WSREC staff are on. However for SPF figures had to be obtained from the funds actuaries and inserted into the accounts. Initial figures obtained from the funds actuaries costing £3k indicted a deficit of £180k using average figures for salary increases however, after providing the actuaries with actual figures for staff salary increases and what the organisation deemed increases going forward the figures received showed a defect of £6k. Stuart also advised that their there will be a need to obtain these figures every year at a cost of £400 and every 3 years at a cost of £3k.

There were a number of questions to Stuart about the SPF scheme by Board members. The Chair suggested that we will look at what is in the best interest of our staff and mitigate any risk to the organisation going forward. The findings of any work on SPF pensions to be reported to WSREC's Finance Committee first before coming to the Board.

Stuart advised that WSREC was by no means the only organisation in this situation as there were many other small organisations in similar situation and that the figures have always been around but did not require to be noted in the annual accounts in the past.

Stuart advised that any Trustee is able to contact him if they felt that there was any issue of fraudulent nature or anything that would material change the accounts.

The annual accounts showed Income for the year as **£667k** and expenditure as **£615k** with surplus of **£52k**

7. Correspondence

There was none

8. Report SAREC- MG provided a report

He advised that the work on hate crime was going well with stage 1 'the Research' being completed and widely disseminated. Has been successful with funds from the Big Lotteries for the 2nd Stage of supporting victims of Hate Crime and now the 3rd stage agreed by the SAREC Board and is to put into action with a partnership with Mental Health Foundation (who have agreed to applying to funder that has been indentified) all going well to have the project begin next year.

Board noted the report

9. A.O.C.B.

MR advised the Board that he was updating/reviewing the Board Induction Pack contents, and will send out the list of contents sheet to all Board members to see if there is a requirement to add to this list to improve the pack.

10. Date and Times of future meetings

Monday 16th October 2017

Monday 11th December 2017

Monday 12th February 2018

Monday 23th April 2018

All meeting are at 6:00pm in meeting room ground floor, WSREC offices.

DRAFT