

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Ltd
64th Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday 11th December 2017 at 6.00pm
WSREC, 39 Napierhall Street, Glasgow, G20 6EZ

Minutes

Present

Board of Directors

1. Hanzala Malik (HM) Chair
2. Dr Malcolm Green (MG)
3. Vince Chudy (VC)
4. Sheela Mukherjee (SM)
5. Onkar Singh Jandu (OSJ)
6. Antony Kozlowski (AK)
7. Sharon Schlesinger (SS)
8. Dr Javed Gill (JG)
9. Cllr Anne McTaggart (AT)
10. John Service (JS)

Observers

Stuart Cassidy – COPFS

In attendance

Mohammed Razaq (MR)
Monique Campbell (MC)
Ben Williams (BW)

Welcome

Chair, Hanzala Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Board of Directors

Munir Choudry (MC)
Harriette Campbell (HC)
Cllr Rashid Hussain (RH)
Syed Jafri (SJ)
Tunweer Malik (TM)

Observers

2. Presentation on one of WSREC's projects

A presentation on WSREC's 'Remember Us- Muslim Communities and the First World War' was made by Monique Campbell – Project Co-ordinator. It was a quick summary on the background and outcomes of the project and its achievements.

Background to the project:

To increase public awareness of the little known involvement of Muslim communities during WW1, contribute to a more inclusive understanding of a shared history and to challenge negative attitudes and behaviours often faced by Muslim communities.

Achievements of Strand 3 and Future Planning

60 individuals attended our WSREC exhibition launch and a further 1200 through our community exhibition displays at:

- Glasgow's Pollokshields Festival of Light (approx. **300** visitors over two days);
- The Project Café (approximately **900** visitors over 7 days).

Historic Environment Scotland Cultural Heritage Conference Presentation – approximately 100 people

A total of **1390** have been given the opportunity to directly learn about this history and to change their impression of the Muslim community contribution to WW1.

After a number of questions and answers the Board thanked Monique for informative presentation. The Chair wished to see more work done in this area with AK suggesting that he may be able to support future work as he is involved with an organisation that is trying to identify soldiers from a list of gave their lives in the war.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of 16th of October 2017 were approved as a true and accurate.

4. Matters Arising

Action:

MR to make sure Board members Induction packs will be emailed to all members and hard copies provided to members wishing so. Mr reported that Induction packs were emailed to members and hard copies were made available to Members who had requested them.

5. Conflicts of Interest (Board members)

There were none

For discussion

6. Reports

a. Finance- Variance Statement for month of October 2017

MR reported that variance for the month was:

Expenditure

Budgeted was £54,266 with Actual spend of £45,057 variance of -£9209

Income

Budgeted was £189,504 with Actual income of £52,841 variance of -£136,663 (MR explained that

GCC and MEETS project grants of **£96,513** came in earlier than budgeted, Grant for Community Jobs Scotland is **£1,594** more than budgeted as we have 2 allocations ROOTs and 3CH projects payment of **£26,412** have not arrived as yet GCRP income is less than envisaged as the total funding was reduced by **£2,500** this quarter. Cook Grow and Sew payment is lower by **£13,235** as the next payment is due in November

There were number of question from the board including cash flow and reserves which MR provided responses to.

The Board noted the variance statement.

b. Directors Report

There were no questions and the Board noted the report

c. Partner Reports

Stuart Cassidy – COPFS.

SC reported that there was no change however; the public speaking competition on equality went well with MR of WSREC being involved along the Lord Advocate in the finals. SC spoke about how the deaths unit was doing its utmost to release bodied back to families as soon as possible for burial. He advised that Mr Green in charge of the Unit is prepared to meet individuals and community groups in relation to this. MR advised Bushra Iqbal at WSREC is looking into this matter and their was correspondence with Lord Advocate agreeing for WSREC to meet with Mr Green to discuss the possibility of post mortems being carried out by scanning. He further advised that Bushra Iqbal is actively looking at having a meeting of individuals from various faith communities' before arranging a meeting with Mr Green.

JG advised that the Muslim Council of Scotland had recently met with the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who showed support in furthering this issue of post mortems in the main being carried out by scanning. He also advised that Manchester was at the forefront of successfully carrying out post mortems by scanning. JG further advised that a Jewish family had success with case they took to court in England in relation being able to have post mortem by scanning.

There was a lot of positive discussion on this issue and the Chair requested the Board be kept updated on this issue.

For Decision

7. Correspondence

There was none

8. Aspiring Community Fund- schedule of Authorised Signatories

A 'schedule of authorised signatories' was put to the Board meeting for endorsement allowing them to contact the funder and to sign off various documents in relation to the fund.

- Mohammed Razaq Executive Director
- Ghzala Khan Deputy Director
- Farrah Rashid Office Manager
- Hanzala Malik Chair of the Board
- Harriette Campbell Member of the Board
- Onkar Singh Jandhu Member of the Board

The Board agreed to endorse the 'schedule of authorised signatories' containing the names above

9. Proposal for 'WSREC Law Unit'

A written proposal for a WSREC Law Unit was discussed and author of the WSREC's Ben Williams spoke to the report.

There were questions about 'will we be replicating what was already being provided' and also 'how will the Unit/WSREC deal with any issue of liability', 'will we have qualified Lawyers employed by the Unit'. These questions were ably answered by BW to the satisfaction of the Board.

The Board approved the setting up a Law Unit and other recommendations contained in the paper and also the 2 pilots namely; Pilot 1 (Immigration) and Pilot 2 (Discrimination and Hate Crime)

10. Report SAREC- MG provided a verbal report

He advised that SAREC had its AGM in Falkirk in November and it was very positive meeting with the re-election of the Board with the secretariat moving to CSREC after 3 years with WSREC. We are progressing towards an application for stage 3 possibly by end of February 2018 jointly with MHF. MG also suggested that the stage 1 'Why Me? Research' completed last year provided a good basis for the application for the stage 3.

Board noted the report

11. Update: Community Ownership of ' Napiershall Street Centre'

MR reported that decision of WSREC Board were being followed however, there was an action point within the Napiershall Centre user Group meeting that WSREC re-approach the landlord City Property in view that they may consider voluntary type of Asset Transfer as a mechanism for some of its properties. MR read out the response from Richard Watson of City Property after being approached by WSREC's Deputy Director Ghzala Khan.

"As you know I have attended some of the Councillor chaired tenants meetings, and understand that the option for the tenants to explore a Community Asset Transfer has been discussed.

The current legal situation is that the position I outlined in the correspondence below (highlighted for ease) remains the position, however since that email exchange in September of last year, City Property has been considering adopting a voluntary type Asset Transfer policy, and we are progressing this. It should be noted that this policy will only apply to properties we regard as non-commercial, and ones who are not contributing to the repayment of the debt to Barclays. The policy is also intended to ensure that any properties with significant know liabilities are also exempted from transfer. As you know well over £1m is required to be

invested in The Centre. Therefore Napiershall is unlikely to be considered by City Property for an Asset Transfer.

I am sorry this is not the response you might have been expecting. I would be happy to meet with you to go over this in more detail, please let me know.

*Regards
Richard”*

Mr Advised that Ghzala Khan has responded to this email and took up the offer of a meeting with Richard Watson.

The noted the response and agreed that a meeting would be helpful. **Action** Ghzala Khan to arrange a meeting with Richard Watson of City Property with accompanied by 2/3 Board members.

12. A.O.C.B.

- The Chair advised the Board that Antony Kozlowski was nominated by WSREC for the Board of Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector recently and pleased to report that he was successfully voted onto the Board. A written report was distributed on behalf AK of the GCVS AGM.
- The Chair also asked MR to update him on the Board annual dinner arrangements, MR advised that he had checked out the World Buffet on Paisley Road West and was advised a cost of £13 per head excluding drinks. It was agreed that staff organise the annual dinner at World Buffet for 7.00pm Monday 8th January 2018. **MR to Action**

13. Date and Times of future meetings

Monday 12th February 2018

Monday 23th April 2018

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