



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

**Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners  
held via Zoom Conference on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 17h30**

**1. Welcome**

Chairperson Jenna Lavin welcomed everyone.

**2. Attendees**

Adre Aggenbach, Andre Verceuil, Andrew Hall, Antonia Malan, Brendan Hart, Bridget O'Donoghue, Bruce Eitzen, Bryan Wintermeyer, Cindy Postlethwayt, Claire Abrahamse, Denise Boers, Emmylou Bailey, Francois Odendaal, Gavin McLachlan, Henry Paine, Jenna Lavin, Katie Smuts, Laura Robinson, Louise van Riet, Mike Scurr, Neil Schwartz, Nicholas Wiltshire, Raymond Smith, Stefan de Kock, Steven Boers, Trevor Thorold, Ursula Rigby, Walter Peters, Wendy Wilson, William Martinson, Wouter Fourie and Yasmin Mayat.

**Proxies**

Jenna Lavin on behalf of Johan Malherbe

Ursula Rigby on behalf of Stephen Townsend

**Apologies**

Chris Snelling, Jayson Orton, Johan Malherbe, Karin Dugmore-Strom, Stephen Townsend and David Gibbs

**3. Approval of Minutes 2019 AGM**

- Adoption proposed by Katie Smuts and seconded by Trevor Thorold.
- The Minutes were approved.

**4. Chairperson's Annual Report**

- Jenna Lavin presented a revised chairperson's report (See attached) noting the concerns raised by Stephen Townsend, who was unable to attend the AGM, around the issue of professionalisation he felt was not adequately addressed in the initial report sent to members, as well as the fact that the report was signed by the entire ExCo opposed to just the Chairperson.
- Jenna Lavin shared a screen document (attached) and discussed the revisions to the report in terms of the processes followed and to be followed in terms of APHP's professionalisation aims.

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Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

- Andrew Hall noted his concerns around the lack of SAQA recognition for Historians and Anthropologists, thus leaving out a key branch of heritage professionals in these professions.
- Jenna Lavin noted that this is an on-going discussion amongst ExCo in terms of what qualifications are needed to work in heritage and how it can be standardised across tertiary institutions.
- Jenna Lavin further noted that much can be learnt from the processes followed by other organisations, like ASAPA, who are in the process of getting SAQA recognition for Archaeologists and that of EPASA, who adopted a 6 core competencies approach as a way of getting SAQA recognition for their members.
- Steven Boers and Raymond Smith questioned if a legislated route was the way to go if APHP's sole intention is just to manage standards and communication within the heritage industry.
- Cindy Postlethwayt pointed out that the above was extensively discussed at APHP's 2015 conference on Future Professionalisation of Heritage in South Africa, previous AGM's and ExCo meetings and that perhaps a contextualised summary be sent to the membership instead of it being rehashed here again.
- It was agreed to upload the 2015 conference report, previous AGM and ExCo meeting minutes that informed the process of APHP's professionalisation aims to the website for members' information and review.
- Adoption with amendment to the document in terms of the above and sole signature by Chairperson was proposed by Emmylou Bailey and seconded by Mike Scurr and Katie Smuts.

## 5. Treasurers Annual Report

- Louise van Riet presented the Treasurer's Report. (See attached) noting a query received from Karin Dugmore-Strom around the issue of disparity in terms of budget allocation for events for last year as opposed to this year.
- Louise van Riet explained that this was due to the fact that the expenditure and income for our conference held in 2019 fell over 2 accounting years and that it was subsequently agreed at the last ExCo meeting that all budgetary allocations for our proposed conference for 2021 will fall within the next financial year and not this year.
- Adoption of the report proposed by Laura Robinson and seconded by Steven Boers.

## 6. Updated code of conduct and ethics

- Jenna Lavin noted that comments were received from members not present at the AGM on the last revision of the code of conduct and ethics documents around issues relating to clarity on language use, something ExCo is currently working on resolving and that the final version will be sent to the membership for approval.



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

- Jenna Lavin however noted that the gist of the document in terms of the proposal and approach will not change, and that members present at this AGM would be obliged to confirm if they are happy for it to move forward in this way or not.
- No objections were noted.
- The Final Version of the document will be circulated to members via email for adoption.

## **7. Conference position paper on Intangible Heritage**

- Jenna Lavin noted the title change of the paper from Conference position paper on Intangible Heritage to that of Outcomes from the Intangible Heritage Conference 2019.
- Jenna Lavin further noted that the said paper would be widely circulated to heritage authorities and interested bodies.
- No objections were noted.

## **8. Anson Square**

- Claire Abrahamse noted that the Anson Square judgement in practice offered very few examples and that the best proposal in terms of a practice guideline would be to offer members, on a case by case basis, a peer review should they be concerned that the Anson Square judgement will influence a NID application they involved in.
- Raymond Smith welcomed the idea and asked for a peer review process to be a standard practice, not only for NIDs but for reports as well.
- Jenna Lavin however cautioned that this could prove to be problematic in terms of a conflict of interest amongst members serving on heritage committees, with the industry being so small.
- It was however reaffirmed that the invitation for a peer review on a case by case basis stands as a mechanism to assist members who fear the Anson Square judgement would impact any application they are involved in.

## **9. Proposed motions**

- Jenna Lavin noted Stephen Townsend's emailed proposed motion that the ExCo be encouraged to pursue the process of professionalism through (a) the association's registration as a "specialist association" under the aegis of the future Council for the Environment (or whatever; when that aspect of the national strategy is pursued) and (b) by exploring the question of accreditation and the question of the necessary skills/competencies required by accredited heritage professionals and whether those competencies should be demonstrated through an examination and/or a portfolio of reports or similar.
- Jenna Lavin confirmed that ExCo is pursuing and will continue to pursue this.
- Proposed motion adopted and seconded by Andrew Hall, Louise van Riet and Mike Scurr.

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## **10. Other business**

- APHP noted the sad passing on of a fellow colleague and member, Dr Elzet Albertyn.
- It was agreed to see how APHP could be of assistance to her close colleagues at this sad and trying time.

## **12. Closure**

- The meeting adjourned at 18.30.