



1. **Present:**  
Gavin McLachlan (GM), Richard Hill (RH), Jonathan Stone (JS), Yasmin Mayat (YM),  
David Gibbs (DG), Dorelle Sapere (DS)  
Secretary: Grace V Martinson (GVM)
2. **Apologies:** Elwyn Harlech-Jones (EHJ), William Martinson (WM)
3. **Opening and welcome**  
GM noted apologies and welcomed all.
4. **Approval of the minutes** of the previous meetings:  
Held over.
5. **Matters arising** from the minutes of the previous meeting –  
Noted as per portfolios on the agenda.
6. **Professionalisation - RH**
  - RH re letter from Natasha Higgitt (SAHRA):
    - Ms Higgitt requested at the end of her email that APHP bring such matters as professionalisation to SAHRA first. However, we have emails recording that in 2016 Mike Scurr (APHP Chairperson at the time) communicated with SAHRA, and APHP gave a presentation to SAHRA on the professionalisation process. APHP will explain to her the process to date as she states that APHP is looking for a home, whereas APHP is looking for a home for Professional Heritage Practitioners. APHP will explain that it is best to work alongside SAHRA as partners in advancing professionalisation going forward.
    - APHP also has proof of a letter sent via email to the SAHRA CEO, Adv. Lungisa Malgas and three other SAHRA officials, on the 3rd March 2022 advising them of our professionalisation initiative. (The letter was also sent to all the PHRAs and to university departments that present heritage-based programmes.) We mentioned that the SAQA process requires us to consult widely with relevant bodies, and requested written responses. SAHRA did not respond.
    - GM notes that it's important to keep a good working relationship with SAHRA and that all correspondence sent to Natasha Higgitt must also be cc'd to the general SAHRA email address. It is not clear in terms of legislation and what is written in



the letter, whether Natasha fully understands the implications of SAHRA becoming a registering authority (similar to SACAP). Legal advice would need to be sought. The draft letter to Natasha Higgitt will be circulated to ExCo before sending.

- GM notes that APHP's role going forward would be that of an interest group, a voluntary association stimulating and looking after the interests of Heritage Practitioners.
- DG notes that there is a powerful role for a voluntary association if it is officially recognised by the registration authority, given that the voluntary association used to do the work of registration authority until such time as that became statutorily organised. For example, in the Landscape Architectural profession, the Institute of Landscape Architects is officially recognised so that if the registration authority wants to promulgate something that affects practitioners, they need to confer or consult. There are criteria for becoming a recognised voluntary association, it has got to do with a critical mass of members being professionally registered.
- GM has circulated a professionalisation progress report to ExCo and RH that will be loaded onto the website once any suggested amendments have been made.
- RH re SAQA, contacted Eugene du Plooy by Whatsapp and will follow up with an email re the EAPASA designation with SAQA.

## 7. Transformation - DS

- DS unable to do due diligence to this portfolio for the next two months due to work commitments.
- DS suggests a dialogue across professions and a process of engagements, such as a series of round tables, or discussions between various sectors. What we need to explore in order to change, is to explore applications (for membership), our role, how we ensure the right heritage reports are written, when there is conflict and how we deal with it. What is it we want to do differently? Currently the focus is on professionalising heritage. There is also an opportunity to look around the notion of youth empowerment in the country and the fact that so many graduates are unemployed. What is the role that APHP can play in changing the face of that. Whether working with Universities, other FET colleges or other potential areas where there could be more support or more unlocking of membership or unlocking of thinking. The notion of inclusivity, as opposed to the current exclusiveness, with possibly friends of APHP, or other ways of having new and different memberships that possibly do different things or benefit from learning and



experience and skills. How do we make heritage work economically? At the moment we are locked into a reactive role where we are responding when someone needs something from us specifically. What is our role as pioneers in terms of changing the face of heritage (the economic and spatial is in place), but what we are not focusing on is the social and intangible heritages - do we respond to that or leave it to other professions? What is needed is an integrated approach of how we support and understand our role. We could locate our role within the United Nations' 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how we can respond to a number of those, particularly around culture etc. There's an aspect around the 'smart' or 'virtual' or 'NFAs' (non-fungible assets) and how we can integrate that with heritage. How do we reach global thinking in terms of heritage? This would require an ExCo virtual discussion repeated over a period of time to reach an understanding of these ideas.

- GM requests that DS puts together a short memorandum to be sent to the ExCo regarding these ideas, to provide continuity for what can be done later in the year.
- DG notes that perhaps this is a process that can be facilitated by an independent third party (still sponsored by APHP) to avoid criticism that APHP is setting an agenda or promoting a particular approach.
- JS added that the ideas mentioned by DS are ethical issues (broad, inclusive, transformational). Specifically, the question of unemployed youth, one way of developing skills is to make available the understanding of heritage to a broader group through popularisation, possibly supported with more accessible digital media.

8. **Finances - WM**

- WM apology submitted.

9. **Membership - JS**

- All membership issues are in hand and there are no unusual items to deal with at a committee level.

10. **Liaising with Heritage Authorities and Related Bodies – DG**

- At the beginning of this month, we had a workshop with Heritage Western Cape Council and Committee Members to understand the strategic plan going forward and work that is being undertaken at the official level and work that we support with the committees. Then also through that, our relationship and integration with SAHRA and their processes. SAHRA maintains the SAHRA repository of heritage projects/work



(Nicholas Wiltshire is involved in these developments) that will be integrated with the Western Cape's heritage inventory. Thus instead of inventing a provincial level of similar systems like SAHRAs, we will be using the SAHRA system. It is likely that through SAHRA there will be encouragement for all the provinces to do the same. There are ongoing meetings with the impact assessment committee and the built environment and landscape committee and various site inspections that are undertaken to particular sites where there are interesting themes coming through where the social issues are coming to the forefront. We have done very well historically with built environment and cultural landscape issues, but the social history is something where our profession could be more firmly footed. This is becoming an important topic, not only for the interested and affected parties that come to hearings to have their say, but also the values that people attach to certain sites. This trend is becoming apparent in the Western Cape, it would be interesting to see whether this happens in other provinces. For example, the Amazon headquarters at the River Club in Cape Town where the First Nations groups were unhappy with the process of sale of land and development, there are few tangible forms of evidence however to support their objection although the social values and history of the site are very present in their minds. Another example is a site that was identified by the First Nations group as having a religious or sacred significance where it was very difficult to get the essence of that out of the public engagement process because of its intangible nature. Another example, the land is currently part of the UCT campus - the old Rustenburg Farm - on which there were indentured or enslaved persons working on the farm, and during some developments, parts of an old cemetery which may or may not contain remains of enslaved persons were in situ. How to interpret, commemorate, and memorialise that history becomes relevant. Other issues are places of forced removal where for example a proposed development on private land which had old cottages that are not architecturally or stylistically of value, but are highly likely the cottages of people who were forced to move under the Group Areas Act during Apartheid. It is not easy to prove that but there are groups that have voiced these issues. Thus forced removals, group areas, First Nations have associations to particular sites and are present in the cultural landscape but are not always evident in a tangible way, and are in fact by their very nature intangible.

11. **Any other business**

- AGM (GM)
  - Date of AGM: 25th May 2023, between 17h00 and 18h00.



- Cut-off date for notices and documents to be emailed to APHP Members is 4th May 2023:
  - Notice of meeting
  - Agenda
  - Minutes AGM 2022
  - Chairman's Report
  - Financial Report
  - Any other relevant documents
- Contributions to the Chairman's Report - GM requests all portfolio reports are submitted for the Chairman's report within the next 10 days.
- Committee Membership after the AGM, those at the end of their two-year cycle (WM & EHJ) who will not stand again to please advise APHP of that decision. GM will not stand for re-election to the ExCo.

## 12. **Event for 2023**

- GM is prepared to be part of the sub-committee for the event.
- GM's proposal can be worked on and go out as a flyer emailed to members and requesting contributions. Suggest an international speaker (pre-recorded or live on zoom) although this may be outside of the budget. There should be an individual from Africa if possible. In mind is Ethiopia with the Coptic Churches or alternatively for example a Zimbabwean Simon Maqavasa (ICAHM which is a subject of ICOMOS which is part of UNESCO) who is an archaeologist involved in the African Initiative as coordinator, worked in Malawi, operated as a heritage practitioner in Zimbabwe and Zambia and has a doctorate from a European university. Another option is to speak to Jenna Lavin who is part of ICAMOS in South Africa and may have contacts in the continent. Also, Stephen Townsend who was at a high level of development of heritage academia in South Africa.
- DS is in contact with ICRAM where she and Stephen Townsend studied. They are a United Nations based organisation. DS can contact somebody there.
- RH attended a conference where Nick Pearce presented by a pre-prepared PowerPoint presentation with voice over, this format could be suggested to presenters. An option is two consecutive days instead of the proposed one afternoon, with 4 papers.
- GM suggests we find CPD clarification for attendees and presenters. In terms of charges, the members should have a much more affordable rate than non-members.



# APHP

Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

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MINUTES OF THE EXCO  
MEETING FOCUSING ON  
PROFESSIONALISATION  
HELD ON 23 MARCH 2023  
at 14h00 via Zoom  
Conference Call

- GM notes that the digital conference would need to be run from Grace's computer and we would need to be sure that power supply is appropriate.

13. **Any other business**

- No other business.

14. **Date of next meeting:**

Thursday 20th April 2023 @ 14h00.

15. **Closure**

Meeting closed at 15h06.