



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
28 SEPTEMBER 2020  
at 13:00 via Zoom Conference Call**

**PRESENT:** Jenna Lavin (JL), Louise van Riet (LvR), Gavin McLachlan (GM), and Claire Abrahamse (CA)

**APOLOGIES:** Ursula Rigby (UR), Adre Aggenbach (AA) and Emmylou Bailey (EB)

**Secretary:** Muneerah Karriem (MK)

**1. Opening and welcome**

JL welcomed ExCo members noting apologies from UR, AA and EB.

**2. Attendance**

Recorded as per minutes.

**3. Apologies**

UR, AA and EB tendered their apologies.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

It was agreed to approve the Agenda.

**5. Approval of previous minutes**

ExCo agreed to defer the approval of the minutes of previous meeting held on 24 August 2020 up until members had sufficient time to review it.

**6. Matters to be addressed**

JL noted that matters to be addressed at this meeting included:

(1) Heritage Practice and Justice (2) SAHRA Survey Project (3) Professional Development and Professionalisation Engagement (4) CPD opportunity for standardised application templates (5) Interaction with Authorities (COCT, HWC and SAHRA) (6) Accreditation Matters (7) Materials to be used by Heritage Practitioners (8) Draft policy for deployment of electronic networks

**6.1 Heritage Practice and Justice**

- ExCo noted the article Naomi, Rike and Maurietta authored in the Daily Maverick; it was agreed to circulate it amongst ExCo and post it to APHP's Facebook page.
- It was agreed to ask **EB** to email ExCo an update and report back on the email discussions with Maurietta, Robyn and Rike post the 24 August ExCo meet so as to inform the minutes.
- EB for APHP ExCo reflected on the meeting held with MS, RS and RH and commended

them on bringing up this critical discussion, which APHP is very invested in having and continuing. APHP ExCo offered assistance in running any process or events deemed necessary and significant or, alternatively assisting where the guests see fit.

- Feedback from Maurietta (29/9/2020) was that "in their (MS, RS, NR and RH) opinion APHP cannot be the "holders" of this space. In this respect, Rike and ACC are on board to be the holders of that space and to hold a number of events, talks, chats.etc under their name and in collaboration with others. APHP will therefore be a participant and not a driver.
- Maurietta suggested a number of potential events such as:
  - A reckoning of the past (facilitated - need to find a suitable person)
  - A closed event which is a space to vent ( this may have to be a space for black practitioners only)
  - A shared coming together space
  - A place for artistic expression and an alternative way of expression of what we sit with."
- ExCO await final decision on this as suggested by Maurietta.
- Maurietta shared with ExCo the article written by herself, RS and NR for Daily Maverick, as well as two others by other stakeholders.
- ExCo has put a standing item, "Transformation towards a just practice" on the Agenda as suggested by Maurietta.

## 6.2 SAHRA Survey Project

- JL informed ExCo that the project would be split in two; one part, as per the Covid 19 Presidential stimulus package linked to the identification of statues and the second part looking at updating the development survey toolkit and categorisation system.
- JL further noted that a small group comprising CA, Stephen Townsend, Sarah Winter and JL in an observer capacity, would move forward in updating the survey toolkit SAHRA currently uses and as developed by Leslie Townsend.
- JL also confirmed that their next meeting with Clinton would take place on Monday, 5 October whereby the smaller sub-committee will look at definitions and the updating of the survey.
- It was noted that the identification of statues part of the project, from APHP's side, is on hold up until the Association knows how its input is needed; ExCo however also noted the political force behind the project and that it will happen with or without APHP's input.

## 6.3 Professional Development and Professionalisation Engagement

- LvR informed ExCo that:
  - the document has been commented on by 6 members so far and that its currently with Trevor Thorold, the last of the Acc Comm members to review it;
  - she will collate all commentary once she receives it from him and hopes to have it ready in time for ExCo's next meeting in October.
- JL noted her apologies in the deferment of this item once again due to her heavy workload and promised to get it done as soon as she can.

## 6.4 CPD Opportunity for standardised application templates

- LvR agreed to start a round robin email amongst ExCo members discussing broadly the approach she takes when drafting a Heritage Statement.
- It was noted that for HIAs, the NHRA and HWC guidelines could be referred to as it is clearly outlines what should be included.
- ExCo however noted the lack of HIA guidelines from SAHRA, hence the inconsistency

nationally.

- It was agreed to start by briefly outlining the basic information needed for section 34 applications.
- CA questioned the CPD aspect of the development of standardised application templates, to which LvR responded that it offers candidate members the opportunity of guidance in terms of how to frame their heritage applications correctly and in doing so eventually achieve accredited membership.
- LvR further added that these application templates could also be work shopped, enabling attendees to earn CPD points.
- CA welcomed the idea and offered LvR her assistance.

## **6.5 Interaction with Heritage Authorities/Institutions**

- ExCo agreed to review the 29<sup>th</sup> June HWC meeting minutes UR sent through, reply to her email with comments and that it thereafter is sent to HWC for their input.
- ExCo agreed to start framing the social, intangible and cultural landscape guidelines in terms of section 34 applications.
  
- JL noted that the 14<sup>th</sup> September Google meets link was only sent to ExCo members who attended the previous meeting with SAHRA.
- ExCo noted EB, UR and CA apologies for the meet and that only JL, the CEO and legal advisor of SAHRA were in attendance.
- JL reported that the meeting as a result was informal, that the CEO did however request APHP's involvement in the statues project and that APHP was invited to attend a workshop they hosting tomorrow, Tuesday, 29 September.
- JL also reported that she informed the CEO and legal advisor of SAHRA about the lack of an email response from both SAHRA and HWC to a list of questions she posed subsequent to the National Department of Environmental Affairs online workshop held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September regarding their new regulations; JL noted that she informed them that the questions were around what these new regulations means for HIAs and that she has since found out from someone within Environmental Affairs that he had been engaging with both SAHRA and HWC for the past 3 months.
- JL informed further that both the CEO and legal advisor of SAHRA were unaware of it and that Natasha Higgitt, an official at SAHRA's had been engaging with this person at Environmental Affairs around the minimum standards for HIAs without senior management being involved; JL felt that this was of concern given SAHRA's last attempt at drafting HIA guidelines, which was neither useful nor workable, but positively noted that now that the senior management has become aware of it, it does open up dialogue for engagement with APHP.
- It was agreed that for the time being, practitioners doing HIAs through NEMA will just have stick to section 38(3) and what the heritage authorities require.
  
- JL noted that the Middleburg conservation body matter with MPHRA was also discussed as well as the legal obligation of PHRAs and the minimum standards they must comply with.
- JL noted that no official response from MPHRA had been received other than an acknowledgement of receipt but agreed to follow up with them soon; JL further added that the Middleburg conservation body informed her that they would like to take this matter to the media, JL however advised them to keep APHP out of it as we need to maintain a good working relationship with these authorities and prefers following the formal channels to

engage with them.

- **JL** agreed to ask **EB** to provide inputs regarding the summary table of PHRAs via email.
- It was agreed to defer the COCT report back to the next meeting.
- **JL** informed that **AA** WhatsApp her report back to her, noting that Government offices are still not fully functional yet, that she awaits the Guidelines to be published by the Minister for the Department of Public Service but suspects that these guidelines will only be published by end September, mid-October thus advising that we wait till then before starting to demand a response to formal communication.
  
- **GM** reported that the lockdown has unfortunately put a damper on the progression of things and if he should continue attempting to contact people at the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality informing them about APHP and the need to comply with heritage legislation.
- **GM** further noted that whilst Nelson Mandela Bay municipality has their fair share of problems it is nothing compared to that of the Makhanda (Grahamstown) municipality which is basically dysfunctional.
- **JL** noted that there should be local conservation body groups that **GM** could make contact with as well as the course convenor who manages the post grad heritage courses on offer at the Grahamstown University; it was strongly encouraged for **GM** to make contact with these people as the more aware people over there are about APHP and that such a body exists for professional heritage practitioners to be able to manage heritage properly.

## 6.6 Accreditation Matters

- **LvR** informed ExCo that:
  - **Xabiso Sidloyi** accepted his candidate accreditation,
  - A new application for accredited membership had been lodged by **Anne-Marie van Zyl**; **Acc Comm** has since requested to see copies of some of her self-authored heritage reports and that she will draft the letter informing the applicant thereof.
- **LvR** agreed to draft an email in collaboration with **JL** enquiring from **Acc Comm** members if they wish to remain on the Accreditation Committee going forward.

## 6.7 Materials to be used by Heritage Practitioners

- ExCo noted the letter from **HWC** requesting that the APHP membership is informed about the incompatible use of modern materials in heritage structures and that they in turn inform their clientele accordingly.
- ExCo noted the bigger issues around intangible heritage at present but agreed to draft a response to the letter; **JL** agreed to do the draft and circulate it amongst ExCo for input.

## 6.8 Draft Policy for deployment of electronic networks

- ExCo noted that **EB**'s comment response on behalf of APHP had been forwarded on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- ExCo further noted the link to an article **LvR** emailed ExCo regarding **Frogfoot Networks**, an open access fibre infrastructure provider's announcement that they have begun their removal of their aerial pole fibre infrastructure in heritage areas of Kimberley, after complaints from members of the public.

## **7. Other Matters**

### **7.1 Email from J Venn regarding fraudulent act by Mr Emcardy**

- **CA** agreed to draft a response letter to Mr Venn regarding the alleged fraudulent act by Mr Nicolas Emcardy in falsifying a HWC's R.O.D. (Record of Decision) approving building works; noting that Mr Emcardy is not an APHP member and that APHP strongly encourages HWC to pursue this matter by laying criminal charges against Mr Emcardy.

### **7.2 Revisions to Ethical Guidelines and code of conduct documents**

- ExCo noted MK's email asking ExCo to review the incorporated track changes to APHP's code of conduct document dated July 2020 and approve it's forwarding to the membership.
- ExCo agreed for it to be forwarded to the membership for approval and adoption.

### **7.3 Janine Loubser's email regarding Zeits Mocca Research**

- ExCo noted the email from Janine Loubser regarding information she requires for her research project on the Zeits Mocca and advised that she contacts Tim Hart and Nicholas Baumann in this regard.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

- ExCo agreed to have the October meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the November meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **9. Closure**

- The meeting closed at 13.57.

