



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
22 FEBRUARY 2021
at 12:00 via Zoom Conference Call**

PRESENT: Jenna Lavin (JL), Claire Abrahamse (CA), Emmylou Bailey (EB), Ursula Rigby (UR), Louise van Riet (LvR) and Gavin McLachlan (GM)

APOLOGIES: Adre Aggenbach (AA)

Secretary: Muneerah Karriem (MK)

1. Opening and welcome

JL welcomed ExCo members noting apologies from AA.

2. Attendance

Recorded as per minutes.

3. Apologies

It was noted that AA tendered her apologies.

4. Approval of Agenda

It was agreed to approve the Agenda.

5. Approval of previous minutes

ExCo agreed to approve the previous minutes of meeting held on the 25th January 2021.

6. Matters to be addressed

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

(1) Transformation towards a just heritage practice (2) Development of a Social Impact Assessment Guidelines document and Cultural Landscape Guidelines document. (3) Ethical complaint by WECA against Andre Pentz (4) SAHRA Survey Project (5) Professional Development and Professionalisation Engagement (6) Standardised application templates and CPD opportunity (7) Interaction with Authorities (COCT, HWC and SAHRA) (8) Accreditation Matters (9) Suspected plagiarised heritage report (10) Induction of new ECPHRA Council (11) APHP Event – Wupperthal Case Study

6.1 Transformation towards a just heritage practice

- EB confirmed that she had heard nothing from Maurietta, Rike, nor Robin since their email correspondence last year and agreed to follow up via email.

6.2 Development of a Social Impact Assessment Guidelines document and Cultural Landscape Guidelines document

- EB informed ExCo that she had just emailed the SIA team members this morning enquiring about their availability for another Zoom meet.
- **EB** agreed to contact Liana Jansen again regarding the drafting of a Cultural landscape guidelines document.

6.3 Ethical Complaint by WECA against Andre Pentz

- JL informed ExCo that she had forwarded WECA ExCo's response.
- MK confirmed that WECA had not responded as of yet.

6.4 SAHRA Survey Project

- ExCo noted their concerns regarding how the project is being perceived from the outside, particularly APHP's membership who would not be happy to be part of a process of getting rid of Apartheid era statues.
- **CA** and **EB** agreed to finalise the draft of the letter to be sent to the SAHRA CEO.
- It was agreed to discuss this matter under 6.7 going forward.

6.5 Professional Development and Professionalisation Engagement

- LvR informed ExCo that Acc Comm members including Jenna plan to have a Zoom meeting with Stephen Townsend on Thursday, 25th February to brainstorm and discuss aligning APHP's accreditation guidelines to that of EAPASA's 6 core competency approach.
- JL noted that she had still not done the historical summary on APHP's professionalisation aims, but would do so as soon as she can.

6.6 Standardised application templates and CPD opportunity

- LvR informed ExCo that she has not drafted the template yet.
- CA noted that once the template is complete, she will run with the proposed training workshop as a CPD opportunity.

6.7 Interaction with Heritage Authorities/Institutions

- LvR provided the feedback from APHP and HWC's meeting held on the 19th February noting that:
 - HWC have and are still working towards a permanent online application and submission process till they are on SAHRIS.
 - They currently working on a 24-hour acknowledgement of receipt for application submissions and if members submitting applications do not receive an acknowledgment of receipt, they should follow up.
 - There remains the issue of miscommunication between Heritage assessment practitioners and EAPs (Environmental Assessment Practitioners) due to the fact that EAPs do not necessarily understand the heritage process as per the standard operating procedures with DEA&DP and NEMA guidelines, as well as that of DEAF who follows a different process at national level.
 - It was noted that as a result HWC often receives basic assessment reports outside of the established HWC process of NID submissions, reference number, response, possible HIA request thus negatively impacting the management of timelines.
 - ExCo noted and agreed that it will take an overarching alignment between HWC, SAHRA, DEA&DP and DEAF to try and get everyone on the same page.

- Waseefa agreed to draft a memo explaining HWC processes in terms of section 38A's.
- It was agreed to forward this memo to the membership and remind them to be particularly mindful in their communication with EAPs when working on section 38A's and for them to insist on following the process in terms of what HWC requires.
- ExCo noted the change to HWC's NID forms that now references section 38(3) of the NHRA due to applicants submitting HIAs, but only complying in conducting the main specialist studies referenced and ignoring the other aspects that normally forms part of a HIA report.
- ExCo welcomed the idea noting that the cut and paste referenced section of the NHRA is particularly useful for applicants who do not understand the entire process of a HIA report; something APHP's membership should however understand and be able to do.
- ExCo also welcomed the simplification of the jargon found on forms for provincial heritage site nominations countrywide, something they felt would appeal to the broader public more.
- ExCo noted HWC's said intention and efforts to do better in improving processes, but felt they were still falling behind on some fundamental things mainly due to capacity issues and not having an individual within HWC's employ who got the time and vision to see the bigger picture, particularly driving the process to get the regulations as per section 30 and 31 of the NHRA moving and thereby eliminating the 40 plus applications that appear on the HOMS agenda regularly.
- CA enquired from ExCo whether the membership actually understood what they needed to do in order for them to join a HWC Whatsapp group for notifications of agenda proceedings using the QR scan codes found on HWC's meeting agendas.
- **JL** agreed to draft a short note providing a step-by-step instruction on how members are to scan the code via Whatsapp.
- **JL** agreed to follow up with Penny regarding the meeting recording; **UR** agreed to draft the minutes.
- **JL** agreed to email SAHRA:
 - the letter CA and EB drafted regarding the perception an article in the Daily Maverick created on SAHRA's survey project being a mechanism to get rid of Apartheid era statues.
 - requesting a meeting in order to follow up on the above, the Middleburg and other matters.
- **EB** reported that she started drafting the summarised table of the contact details of relevant persons at the various PHRAs; would send it to ExCo to review, confirm, add and/or update the contact numbers she noted.
- **UR** reported that she heard nothing from the COCT and struggled to get hold of any of the officials; she further noted that the officials would be working from home till June/July at least, with the possibility of it being the case indefinitely.
- ExCo noted its concern and agreed that **UR** should establish who the MAYCO member in charge of the environmental and heritage sector at the COCT is and escalate the matter.
- **JL** noted AA emailed report back that she had still not received responses to her emails and requests for a meeting with the Gauteng PHRA and local heritage authorities.
- **UR** further informed ExCo of the catastrophic situation of applications lodged and uploaded to the Joburg/Gauteng City website that laid dormant for an entire year as none of the officials could access it.

- ExCo agreed that this too need to be raised with SAHRA as Joburg/Gauteng City feeds into the PHRA and that developers would obviously have used this opportunity to take gaps and not wait for the necessary approvals.
- GM reported that he had not made contact with ECPHRA nor any of the local authorities again.
- GM agreed to contact Keith Coltman, an architect and official at the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality.
- It was agreed for item 6.10; ECHPRA handover report to new Council, to be noted and recorded under item 6.7 going forward.

6.8 Accreditation Matters

- ExCo noted the accredited membership application of current candidate member, Wendy Wilson.
- It was agreed to defer this matter and discuss and ratify the decision via email.

6.9 Suspected Plagiarised report

- JL informed ExCo that she had not contacted Jean Beater nor emailed Dr Dlamuka of AMAFA yet, but will do so soon.

6.10 Induction of new ECPHRA Council

- GM agreed to ask Andrew Palframan, an architect and head of the department at the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality if he could attend their meetings at ECPHRA going forward.
- ExCo agreed to raise the findings of the ECPHRA handover report with SAHRA, noting APHP's grave concern regarding ECPHRA's competency to manage heritage applications in terms of the NHRA, particularly HIAs.
- ExCo however understandably notes SAHRA's hesitancy to find PHRA's incompetent as they do not have the means to hold PHRAs accountable at this point.

6.11 APHP Event – Wupperthal Case Study

- EB informed ExCo that the communicated event date of 24th February had to be changed due to a BELCom meeting taking place on the same day.
- ExCo thus agreed to the proposed date change from the 24th February to the 3rd March.
- LvR informed ExCo of the Zoom meet she intends having with Graham Jacobs and the CIFA team tomorrow, 23rd February, to decide on who does what for the presentation and agreed to inform ExCo accordingly.
- **LvR** and **CA** agreed to thereafter draft the blurb informing of the topics to be presented so that it forms part of the invite to be sent to the membership on the 24th February.

7. Other Matters

- There were no other matters discussed

8. Date of Next Meeting

- It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 29 March 2021 at 12pm.

9. Closure

- The meeting closed at 12.55