

Minutes of the EXARC AGM

Thursday 25 April 2013, 16:00h, Archeon, Alphen a/d Rijn, the Netherlands

Members present at the EXARC AGM, 25 April 2013, Archeon, the Netherlands: Luc Eekhout (Eindhoven Museum, NL), Martin Schmidt (Landesmuseum Hannover, DE), Rüdiger Kelm (AÖZA, DE), Ole Madsen (Arkeologisk Museum Stavanger, NO), Bill Schindler (Washington College, USA, carrying 2 proxy votes), Manel Gomez (Calafell, CAT), Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland County Council, NO), Jack Veldman (Archeon, NL), Björn Jakobsen (Fotevikens Museum, SE), Sofie Kemppi (Fotevikens Museum, SE), Steve Burrow (St Fagans, WLS), Roeland Paardekooper (NL, carrying 3 proxy votes), Barrie Andrian (Scottish Crannog Centre, SC), Jaco Schilp (NL, carrying 2 proxy votes), Carsten Møller (Bork Vikingehavn, DK), Patrick Franzen (Kierikki, FI), Leena Lehtinen (Kierikki, FI), Bruce Bradley (University of Exeter, UK), Milica Tapavicki-Ilic (Archaeological Institute Belgrade, SRB), Wiel van der Mark (Archeologiehuis, NL)

Present: 20 people, representing 18 votes and 7 proxy votes, make 25 votes.

1# Opening

Steve Burrow, Chair, opens the AGM at 16:14h. He thanks Jack Veldman for the OpenArch conference; this AGM is in the shoulder of an OpenArch meeting.

2# Establishing if the AGM is able to take decisions

Steve apologises for the delay of the financial report – there are no objections to officially establishing the AGM.

3# Verifying that the meeting was called early enough

Steve verifies the meeting was called early enough.

4# Verifying that the agenda for the meeting has been agreed

The agenda is agreed.

5# Suggestion to change the bylaws

Geir Sør-Reime describes the changes we made in the bylaws and how we got to the suggestion as present. The bylaw changes as suggested reflect the change from the Board as the executive body to executive director with a professional body, defining the roles more clearly. We cannot easily change the constitution so therefore the Board suggests these changes in the bylaws. The executive functions of the Board are transferred to the Director, where the Board defines the framework of the organisation, policy issues. There are no objections, the new bylaws are accepted.

6# Annual and financial reports of the previous year

Roeland reports about 2012, following on that Jack reports about the 2012 finances. He mainly refers to pages 1-9 of the accountant report. Jack Veldman suggests EXARC should have a reserve in the future. It is a kind of safety net. Martin Schmidt asks whether a reserve is required or allowed according to Dutch law. In Germany it is not allowed for associations. Jack Veldman confirms that according to Dutch law (EXARC is Dutch) this is allowed.

7# The Auditors' Report on the previous year's finances

Rüdiger Kelm, auditor, gives his findings. Everything coming in has been used correctly. Rüdiger Kelm agrees with the 2012 books. He has however some recommendations: EXARC is getting more members, more money and more projects. We need to be aware EXARC is on its way from a volunteer society to a professional one – EXARC has to be more professional, accountable. Nothing went wrong whatsoever, but please be aware that everything remains running well.

8# If agreed, dismissing the old Board following Article 6.4 of the Charter (Steve)

Rüdiger Kelm suggests dismissing the old Board. There are no objections from the members, and therefore the 2012 Board is dismissed. Steve Burrow adds that so much of EXARCs work is voluntarily; he thanks the Secretariat.

9# Appointing new Board members

Steve introduces this point on the agenda: Geir Sør-Reime, Steve Burrow, Jack Veldman and Ilaria Pulini reached the end of their terms. Barrie Andrian is resigning.

- a. Elect the Chair: Martin Schmidt, only candidate, tells a few words on himself. Martin is elected.
- b. Vice Chair Björn Jakobsen remains on his post, so no elections are needed.
- c. Secretary will be Javier Baena Preysler, taking over from Geir Sør-Reime. Javier was already Board member, therefore no elections are needed.
- d. For Treasurer we have two candidates. There is a request for a secret ballot between Jack Veldman & Luc Eekhout. Both introduce themselves.
 - a. Jack Veldman presents the first quarter of 2013. The income side is growing very well. Jack Veldman mentions that apples should be counted with apples – pears with pears. OpenArch and other projects make EXARC finances more complicated; it is hard to understand different nationality backgrounds. For these matters, EXARC needs an experienced treasurer.
 - b. Luc Eekhout mentions he is a newcomer. He studied history and was for 18 years Director of the Dutch National Carriage Museum. He has experience with European projects and was Board member of an ICOM International Committee. When he turned 50 years old, he changed his plans: Autumn 2010 he turned director of the Eindhoven Museum. His tasks were to make it more professional, to clean up skeletons from the closet and to merge two museums. He has heard about the EXARC vision which sounds well to him. Our challenge is to go into Asia, the Middle East and the US: this is mostly uncharted country. Luc Eekhout concludes that with him running for Treasurer, a real choice is offered.
 - c. Geir Sør-Reime and Rüdiger Kelm form the election committee. The votes are cast as follows: Luc Eekhout: 15; Jack Veldman: 7; Abstained: 2. Luc Eekhout is elected, Jack Veldman is thanked for his work.
- e. There are two new candidates for the position of Member of the Board who both present themselves: Bill Schindler & Ole Madsen. There were no objections, both got elected.
- f. There are two old Board Members who stay on: Hans Reschreiter & Peter Vemming. No elections are needed.
- g. Now the Board exists of 8 people on the Board, only men. Roeland Paardekooper, Director, thanks those leaving: Steve, Jack, Geir, Barrie & Ilaria. Many improvements were initiated by the 2012 Board and there are plans to build onward. All in all, the 2012 Board laid good foundations.
- h. Björn Jakobsen mentions the Board may be maximum 9 people so if the AGM wants, one more person could be added. Björn Jakobsen suggests adding Jack Veldman as member to the Board. Jack Veldman expresses to be willing to stand. Roeland Paardekooper requests a secret ballot. Geir Sør-Reime and Rüdiger Kelm form the election committee. The votes are cast as follows: “Yes” to add Jack Veldman as Board Member: 9; “No” to add Jack Veldman as Board Member: 12; Abstained: 3. Jack is therefore not elected; the Board remains 8 people.

10# Appointing new Auditors

EXARC needs two people who will audit the books 2013. Jack Veldman candidates, so does Rüdiger. The AGM elects both people.

11# Presentation of the plan for the forthcoming year

Steve Burrow presents: "our commitment to the membership 2013 – 2017". These plans made in 2012 give a sense of direction.

- Category 1: Members

Our members are the most important we have. We will increase our membership a lot. The increase will be greatest in individual members. We need to offer them services in return and be of greater use for new members. EXARC will define sub-networks / platforms, an extension of what we have been doing so far. We predict growth and accommodate them on ancient technology and site interpretation. EXARC has a very wide spread of members. We designed a new system of membership fees based on GDP per capita, still giving us two categories.

- Category 2: Communication

The strength of EXARC is its array of communication media: the EXARC Journal, the Digest, Newsletters, Websites and Social Media. There is a massive audience for what we do – it has been a good strategy of the previous Board to engage this much. The hard work of the Secretariat pays off. Face to Face contact is the best way to bring us together; these meetings are terrifically important. EXARC has a north-south divide. Our suggestion is to turn that, making sure our membership get enough benefits.

- Category 3: Networks

Our greatest network is that EXARC is an Affiliated Organisation of ICOM. This was started under *liveARCH* and gives EXARC a level of status, showing the value our members have; ICOM has 30,000 members across the globe. We will extend that to other networks.

- Category 4: Organisation

EXARC is about doing things, but we do need to have a look at our own organisation. The Board are volunteers. The core of EXARC is the Secretariat, existing of Roeland, Magda, Katka & Jodi. Everything so far is the work of just these four people: a great strength, but an issue in sense of sustainability: much rests on few shoulders. We need to broaden that out, extending the Secretariat, so we are not depending on a few persons only.

The members present have no questions, the plan is accepted.

12# Adoption of a budget for the forthcoming year and setting the annual contribution

Jack Veldman presents the 2013 & 2014 Budget; the AGM approves this. Roeland Paardekooper then explains the 2014 fees; the AGM approves this.

13# Next meetings

Roeland Paardekooper introduces plans for next meeting, to be held 12 – 15 September 2013, near Budapest, Hungary. The Board will look into the dates, the AGM is content.

14# Any Other Business

There is no other business.

15# Closing

Steve Burrow closes the meeting at 17:37h. Following on this, Martin Schmidt, new Chair, thanks him and asks for a big hand for the old and leaving Board. He also mentions that if there are any suggestions from the Members, please let the new Board know. Let's try to get EXARC growing.