

Minutes

of the 8th Regular Association Meeting of

sculpture network e. V.

held on 30 September 2012 at 10:00 AM at the InterCity Hotel Celle (Room Esprix 3+4)
In Celle, Germany

ITEM 1 Welcome by the Chairman of the Board; Ratification of the Agenda

At 9:59 AM the Chairman opened the session which was held in English and German. Sophie Schmidpeter kept the minutes.

The Chairman greeted the members in his own name as well as in the name of the Board Members present – Hartmut Stielow, Beatriz Blanch and Peter Fischer-Piel. He also addressed those members who could not attend the meeting in Celle. The Board Member, Beata Smigla-Nowak, was excused and sent her regards to all attendees.

The Chairman established that the meeting was called in good order and on time, in accordance with Article VII of the By-Laws. Twenty-five members were present. He asked if any additional items were requested to be added to the agenda. None were motioned.

In respect to the preceding Forum, the Chairman noted that in his personal opinion the lectures held were excellent and that in total the atmosphere was good. One can, therefore, speak of a successful event.

ITEM 2 Acceptance of the Annual Report by the Executive Committee (audited by Deloitte & Touche Auditing Corporation)

The Chairman put the Annual Report 2011 up for discussion. This had been sent to members along with the invitation prior to the meeting. Since a detailed presentation of sculpture network's programme work was included in the annual report, there was no need for further discussion.

The Annual Report was once again audited by the Auditing Corporation Deloitte & Touche, which institution has audited sculpture network's books pro bono from the beginning. Heartfelt thanks were extended to Deloitte for their efforts.

The chairman asked if there were any comments on the Annual Report. This was not the case. The Annual Report of the Board and the Closing Account were thereupon put to vote and were ratified unanimously, with abstentions by the Board members present.

The Chairman referred to the ongoing tight financial situation of the organization. At this point there were several suggestions from members on the topic of fundraising. These will be discussed under Item 5.

ITEM 3 Approval of the Executive Board

Micha Koch motioned that the Board be approved for 2011.

The motion was unanimously accepted, with abstentions by the Board Members present.

Therewith, all Board Members were approved for 2011.

Frigga Pohl thanked the members of the Board, in the name of all members, for their work and their sustaining engagement. The Board thanked everyone for their confidence.

ITEM 4 Alteration of the By-Laws § XVI, Nr. 4

The Chairman of the Board explained briefly that the process of registering new members involves considerable administrative effort. In order that this not be at the expense of the present members, the Board has decided to introduce an application fee of € 30 and to eliminate the statement in the By-Laws waiving an Application Fee.

The Chairman asked if anyone were against the elimination of Paragraph No.4. This was not the case. The elimination is therefore, unanimously accepted.

ITEM 5 Discussion of Future Programmes and Orientation

The Chairman thanked the representatives Beatriz Blanch (Madrid, Spain), Paulina Tsvetanova (Berlin, Deutschland), Anne Berk (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Anne de Harlez (Ibiza, Spain) (absent), and Rainer Bolliger (Switzerland, Liechtenstein) (absent) for their work and summarised in condensed form the developments of the past year.

- 140 new members – at present the organisation has 1000 members in 43 countries
- Prof. Dr. emer. Christa Liechtenstein was awarded honorary membership in September by the Board.
- Paulina Tsvetanova in Berlin has been offered a part-time engagement in fundraising and marketing.
- Nyb' 12 was a great success with over 2000 participants. Members have again been asked to host the event this coming year
- Two successful exhibitions have taken place – one in Sollentuna (Sweden) in cooperation with the Swedish Sculpture Association and the Konsthall Edsvik, and one in Berlin (Germany), organised by 23 members in the region
- Six different Dialogues were carried out
- A Working Symposium became reality
- Two sculpture network "Experiences" took place
- The XIth International Forum took place in Celle on the topic of Light Art

In the coming year, as well, sculpture network intends to continue with this broad programming spectrum. However, at the last Board meeting the question did come up as to whether it makes sense to organise an International Forum every year or whether it may be sufficient to have one every two years since the Forum involves such an enormous work load and only a small number of members can attend (for various reasons, above all: time, financial limitations, interest in the topic).

Consolidated Feedback from the members:

- That is a good idea, if instead several smaller events were organized
- Because of friendships established it should take place every year. There is a sense of togetherness and the opportunity should be given, even if not always the same people attend. Fifty or sixty participants are sufficient, as then the communication among those present is much more intensive.

The Board will now rethink its considerations on the basis of the opinions expressed.

The members offered the following suggestions in respect to sculpture network's further programme development:

- Exhibitions could take place as exchange programmes with exhibitions by members in other cities
- Promotion agencies should be invited to the art shows
- Grants should be requested from the federal government and the individual states for member exhibitions
- An on-line shop should be established for the sale of member catalogs

Anne Berk asked if there weren't sponsors who could support the organisation and how one could engage them in the future. The Chairman of the Board explained that this is a difficult task and that there are already ongoing discussions. It is possible to collect funds on an annual basis for smaller projects. The Vice-Chairman, for instance, collected grants of €12,000 for the International Forum 2012 from sponsors.

During the following discussion among members and the Board, it became obvious that grants from sponsors are available above all for local and regional projects. Because sculpture network's events are international and take place each year in different countries, the search for continual support by sponsors is difficult.

Members, above all friends of the arts, should be approached for support. Until now we have had little success in this effort.

The Chairman openly stated the following: if each artist would name only one of his collectors/buyers and could convince him/her to join, sculpture network could at once gain 500 to 600 new members, and the increased income from annual fees would easily cover the costs of the organisation. Every member would profit from the increase in capability.

However, the artists must be convinced that naming any one person is not really a risk but that adding many new names represents a great opportunity.

Suggestions from the audience on improving the financial situation:

- Introduction of an annual donation
- Artists should be asked to donate one of their works involving little material costs; these would then be sold in an auction.
- Friends of the arts could be asked to accept a sponsorship for an artist (even a participation fee).
- Increase the annual membership fee for friends of the arts to €300 to €500
- General increase in the annual membership fee

All worthy suggestions will be discussed further internally and will be included in future programming.

The Board again called on all members to become actively involved in sculpture network. The value for each individual member depends essentially on the initiatives developed from within the group itself. Good examples of this are the "Working Symposium" in Toledo and the art exhibition in Berlin.

As a last point, Ralf Kirberg asked the members to actively participate in organising the New Year's Brunch 2013 on the 20th of January and to offer their services as a host for the event.

ITEM 6 Any Other Business

The chairman closed the meeting at 11:36 AM and thanked all participants for their attendance and for their lively and constructive contributions to the discussions.

Pöcking, October 15, 2012

Ralf Kirberg
Vorsitzender

Sophie Schmidpeter
Clerk