



giving a voice to museum
people in the North West

10th Board Meeting
NML, 27 Dale Street, Liverpool
Thursday 9th September 2010 11.20 am to 2 pm

Present

Piotr Bienkowski (Chair), Jo Jones, Clare Wolfarth, Micahla Hill, Joanne Irvine, Jamie Barnes, Steve Garland, Debbie Walker.

Item	Minute	Action
1.0	Welcome and apologies for absence:	
1.1	Apologies received from Catriona West and Drod Tunstall Introduction To Meeting: PB explained to new members of the board that under the NWFED's Constitution 6 Directors are elected by the associate members, 3 are co-opted and 3 are not associate members. At the moment MH, DT and CW are not associate members. PB suggested that they join the NWFED as soon as possible to give the NWFED more flexibility when recruiting additional board members. Catriona West is employed by the NWFED to work two days a week as Coordinator. Funding is in place for this post until December 2010. PB and JJ are meeting NML next month to discuss future funding. The Coordinator's main duties are: finance, website, board papers, circulars, answering queries from associate members and organizing events. This work occupies all her time. The Coordinator is not employed to do the work of the Directors. Each Director takes on a role or an area of work and must take responsibility for this. Their responsibilities include preparing board papers for their own area of work. If Directors need assistance they must talk to PB.	MH, DT and CW to become associate members asap
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting:	
2.1	3.1 Check whether CGW has informed associate members of the change in Chair through the website blog post	PB
2.2	4.2 Check whether the Renaissance: NW Green programme is still going ahead	CGW
3.0	Items for Decision	
3.1	Website The board agreed that trying to restrict the website to associate members only won't bring in any new members SG suggested having a free login so that people had to sign up even if they weren't associate members. This would provide contact addresses. Board voted that the Website Usage Board paper report trends only.	
4.0	Key Items for Discussion / Information	

4.1	<p>Future dates and preferred locations of Board Meetings</p> <p>Agreed that next few meetings should be on two-monthly schedule as there are lots of changes at present. After March 2011 consider reverting to quarterly schedule.</p> <p>Next board meeting to be held on 4th November as 11th November is same day as Curating The Future Conference</p> <p>10 am Friday 14th January 2011 at Conservation Centre, Preston</p> <p>10 am Friday 11th March, Kendal Museum</p>	<p>CGW to check if Grosvenor Museum is free</p> <p>MH to check availability</p> <p>JB to check availability</p>
4.2	<p>'Future North West: Our Shared Priorities'</p> <p>NWFED to coordinate response from board members and associate members about this document</p>	<p>Board members to send their views to CW by Friday 24th September CGW to e-mail associate members to request views</p>
4.3	<p>Events</p> <p>Small working group to be established to look at events – JI, DW, JB and CGW</p>	<p>JI to bring ideas from group to next board meeting on 4th November</p>
4.4	<p>Fundraising and Income Generation</p> <p>The board agreed that a fundraiser is required urgently. Suggestions for fundraisers were made:</p> <p>Charles Waddington who is now retired and worked at Dove Cottage</p> <p>Shula Walsh who works in marketing</p>	<p>JB to contact asap</p> <p>JI to</p>

		contact asap
	Amy de Joia/ staff in development office	CW to contact asap
	Helen Jenkins, freelancer who worked at IWMN	DW to contact asap
	Fundraising Working group - SG to lead, PB and JJ	Group to bring ideas to next board meeting
	PB, JJ and CGW are attending a meeting with NML on 15 th October to discuss their partnership and future funding for NWFED. Funding for the Coordinator's post runs out in December 2010.	
	The board agreed that doubling the membership of the NWFED won't improve its finances whereas getting more people involved and participating will strengthen the NWFED	
5	Director's Reports	
5.1	NW Museums Strategy Group	
	PB updated the board. MLA provided a grant of £30,000 to deliver the second part of the strategy. Two consultants were interviewed and were unsuccessful because they were too processual, none of them were inspirational/ provided a vision. Another consultant, Alex Saint and Steve Connor of Creative Concern in Manchester, provided a joint proposal which is inspirational. They have been commissioned to develop the vision. CGW will continue to work with them in order to build upon the work done before. Alex reports to PB and is holding meetings with David Fleming, Virginia Tandy, Emma Anderson and Nathan Lee to discuss the vision. The term strategy will not be used; this will be a vision document for Whitehall, funders, stakeholders and new partners and for the museum sector. By the end of October 2010 a draft will be complete and the final version will be complete by early November. The document will include the fundamental questions which need to be asked now, what museums need to do, evidence of good practice and issues to overcome.	PB to send board members Alex Saint and Steve Connor's proposal
	There will be a fringe MA conference event held on 4 th October in Manchester 11 am – 1 pm which has the support of the MA's Sharon Heal.	
	Next meeting Thursday 4 th November at 10 am. Venue tbc	