

Board of the National Museum of Ireland

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 5th October 2023, at 10am
Japanese Room, NMI – Archaeology, Kildare Street and via videoconference
(Approved on 14th December 2023)

Present: Ambrose Loughlin (Acting Chair) Ciaran Byrne
Marianne Doyle Geraldine Sheridan (via vc)
Helen Shenton Beatrice Kelly (via vc)
Paolo Viscardi Claudia Kinmonth
Barra O'Donnabhain Cathal O'Donoghue
Linda King Iseult Dunne
Susan Rogers

Apologies: John Bowen

In attendance: Lynn Scarff (Director, NMI) Jade Dillon (Secretary to the Board, NMI)
Aoife Hurley (Director of Operations, NMI)
Dr Éimear O'Connor (Director of Collections & Access, NMI)

1.0	Opening of meeting, apologies if any and adoption of the agenda
1.1	The Acting Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Dr Éimear O'Connor, NMI's new Director of Collections & Access to her first Board meeting. Apologies were conveyed for J. Bowen.
1.2	<u>Agenda and conflicts of interest if any</u> The agenda was adopted. There were no conflicts of interest.
2.0	Previous minutes
2.1	The minutes were approved.
3.0	Executive Report
3.1	<u>Board member activity</u> The Director thanked C. O'Donoghue for attending a photo-call for the launch of the GAA exhibition on 13 th September 2023.
3.2	<u>Collections storage</u> A significant collections storage project at the CRC has been completed. This project entailed the logging, clearing and shelving of a substantial number of commercial archaeological materials. On behalf of the Board, the Acting Chair expressed his appreciation to all staff involved in the project.

3.3	<p><u>Transition Year</u> The Director confirmed that NMI will be facilitating a transition year programme in 2024. The Secretary agreed to circulate the link to the Transition Year Programme for 2024.</p>
3.4	<p><u>GAA: People, Objects & Stories exhibition</u> Curated by Dr Siobhán Doyle, the GAA: People, Objects & Stories exhibition was launched in September 2023. A note of congratulations was recorded for S. Doyle and all staff who were involved in the development and launch of the exhibition. Some feedback was noted by the Director for sharing with the exhibition team.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Implementation of strategic plan</u> A business planning workshop has been scheduled with the Senior Management Committee who will be identifying key projects and their KPIs for 2024 and beyond. Some discussions followed on the importance of NMI securing its budget ask to ensure that goals set out in its strategic plan come to fruition. The Board offered their support of priority projects set out in the strategic plan, and discussed the challenges faced by NMI in delivering on both its strategic goals and statutory obligations under a potential standstill budget. There was consensus that NMI should ensure that the core work of the museum be prioritised in a budget constraint scenario and that any non-core work would need to be allocated additional funding.</p>
4.0	Special Discussion Topics: Committees
4.1	<p>The Committee Chair reports were noted and taken as read. The Acting Chair invited the Chairs of the Board Committees to present in on their committee priorities, membership and potential skill gaps. A note of thanks was recorded to the Chairs for their work and support for NMI and the Board.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Suggested improvements</u> It was noted that there are currently a number of overlaps in topics discussed at committee level and it was proposed that a cross-committee body might be worth considering.</p>
4.3	<p><u>NCRR oversight at Board level</u> It was proposed that a NCRR project group consisting of board members could be established. Given the long-term nature of this project, the duration of an active project group would need to be considered before being established.</p>
4.4	<p><u>Climate Action</u> There was agreement that climate action should be a key topic for Capital & Estates with the proviso that the full scope of climate impact on the NMI buildings and estate is addressed including but not limited to energy consumption.</p>
4.5	<p><u>External Board members</u> It was agreed that the formalising of roles and time commitments of external board members would be discussed with the incoming Chair of the Board.</p>
4.6	<p><u>Terms of Reference</u> It was agreed that Committee Terms of References would be revised and would be updated to include reference to NMI staff who may present into each Committee.</p>
4.7	<p><u>Board Self-Assessment</u> The Acting Chair reminded all Board members to ensure that Board Self-Assessment questionnaires are completed on an annual basis.</p>
5.0	Committee reports and papers
5.1	<p>The Committee Chair reports were noted and taken as read. The Financial pack was noted and formally adopted by the Board.</p>

6.0	A.O.B
6.1	<u>Collections Security</u> The Director provided updates to the Board on NMI collections security processes and procedures.
6.2	<u>Protests</u> The Director updated the Board on the recent NMI - Archaeology closure due to protests on Kildare Street.
6.3	<u>Dr Linda King and Paolo Viscardi</u> On behalf of the Board, the Acting Chair and the Executive thanked L. King and P. Viscardi for their commitment and advocacy for NMI over the past five years, and for the energy that they each brought to their roles. The Board wished them the very best in their future endeavours.
6.4	<u>Derek Flynn</u> A note of gratitude was recorded for Communications & Development Committee external Board Member, Derek Flynn who resigned from his position due to work commitments. Derek's contributions and insights into cultural institution branding and identity was invaluable to both board members and the Executive and the Board and Executive wished him well in his career.
7.0	Closed discussion
7.1	<u>Women's Museum</u> The Director updated the Board on discussions around the proposal for a women's museum, including an update on the establishment of an expert advisory group that will explore what programming might look like. The Chair of the Expert Advisory Group has not been appointed. Any updates will be brought to the attention of GPAC.
8.0	Date of next meeting
8.1	14 th December 2023 at 10am. <u>End of meeting.</u>