Extra General Assembly 2017 (over Skype)

Meeting minutes

Date:
Monday February 20, 2017, 20:00h Brussels time.

Location:
Skype

Agenda:
• Welcome & attendance
• Discussion of the proposed bylaws and voting on what we agree on.
• Approval minutes 2016
• New board members
• Treasurer
• Auditor
• other items
Welcome

Geert (President) opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Each voting members present on skype introduced themselves
  ○ Europe:
    ■ Bronwen Thornton, WALK21, International (UK-based)
    ■ Ole Thorson, Cataluna Camina, Spain
    ■ Geert van Waeg, johanna.be, Belgium (President)
    ■ Mario Alves, ACA-M, Portugal (Secretary General)
    ■ Christian Thomas, Fussgaengerverein Zuerich, Switzerland
    ■ Dieter Schwab, walk-space.at - Austrian Pedestrian Organisation, Austria
    ■ Dominik Bucheli, Fussverkehr Schweiz, Switzerland
    ■ Tom Platt, Living Streets, UK
  ○ Oceania:
    ■ Ben Rossiter, Victoria Walks, Australia (Vice President)
    ■ Andy Smith, Livingstreets Aotearoa, New Zealand
  ○ North America:
    ■ Dana Corres, Liga Peatonal, Mexico.
    ■ Kate Kraft, America Walks, US
    ■ Eileen McCarthy, America Walks, US
  ○ South America
    ■ Gustavo Calderon, Fundaciòn Colombiana de Peatones, Columbia
  ○ excused
    ■ Siva Kumar, Pedestrians Welfare Association, Kerala, India
    ■ Tom Dhollander, Voetgangersbeweging, Belgium

Minutes 2016

The delegates approved the minutes for the previous General Assembly, in Hong Kong.

Bylaws

A proposal for some amendments to the bylaws has been circulated to the members.
Main items to be changed:

- Update not-for-profit wording including the inclusion of a treasurer/auditor to be in line with Swiss anti-money-laundry policies. This will allow us to open a bank account in Switzerland. Clear definitions of the responsibilities of the different executive members and general secretary.
- Update timings for GA invitations (3 months -> 1 month) and communications (1 month -> 2 weeks)
- Allow meeting attendance to include e-communication such via Skype.
- The General Assembly approves the new bylaws. ....... (comments?)

Comments: Ole the GA or the Board should approve the Budget. Ben, Geert and Bron said that should be the Board but not the GA. Ole agreed that could be the Board and is not necessary to be on the bylaws.

Comment: Eileen had some wordsmithing suggestions that were all accepted.

The bylaws are approved by everyone!

Board members

- The two candidates for board members shortly presented themselves, after which the general assembly agreed on:
  
  - Dana Corres, Liga Peatonal, Mexico
  - Tom Platt, Living Streets, UK

Both were approved by everyone!

Treasurer and auditor

- Given our new bylaws, we need to appoint a treasurer (member of the executive) and an independent auditor (not a board member).
- The proposal to appoint Ole Thorson as Treasurer was approved by everyone.
- The proposal to appoint Dominik Bucheli as auditor was approved by everyone.
- The president points out that these are important functions and thanks both Ole Thorson and Dominik Bucheli to accept this role. The general assembly ....

Membership - members
According to what is stipulated in our bylaws, it is a decision of the board to accept (or not) membership applications. The board will take that decision. Recently, a list was circulated by Mario Alves to the board with the recent applications and some recommendations. Since we are having this General Assembly, we thought it was valuable anyhow to short describe the different applicants and gather feedback from the members.

The applicants are:

1) Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF), India - To be accepted as Associate Member
2) National Automobile Club of Azerbaijan (AMAK), Azerbaijan - further questions on their work on pedestrians
3) MTÜ Jalakäijate Ühing (Estonian Pedestrians' Association), Estonia - they seem active and a legal entity - the EC proposes to be accepted as Voting Members
4) Corrida Amiga, Brasil - further assessment needed to know if they are a legal entity and how they make internal decisions to finally decide if we should accept them or not as Voting Members
5) Resource Centre for Primary Health Care, Nepal - To be accepted as Associate Member
6) Arquitectúria Association, Spain - further assessment needed to know if they are a legal entity if their main focus is pedestrian advocacy and advise them to contact their national network
7) Pedestrian and Bicycle Transport Institute of Australasia (PedBikeTrans), Australian - To be accepted as Associate Member after accessing their policy on pedestrian / cyclists conflicts