

**National Galleries of Scotland
Board of Trustees**

Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two, Belford Road, Edinburgh on Monday 15 June 2015 at 1400 hrs.

Present: Ben Thomson, Chairman
Alistair Dodds
Lesley Knox
Tari Lang
Benny Higgins
Professor Nick Pearce
Tricia Bey
Willie Watt
Catherine Muirden
Edward Green
Nicky Wilson

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Christopher Baker
Nicola Catterall
Jacqueline Ridge
Patricia Convery
Simon Groom
Patricia Allerston
Frank Gribben
Brian Doneghan, Head of Operations (item 9.4 only)

Apologies: Michael Clarke

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Action

1 Chairman's Business

The Chairman commended the forthcoming summer exhibition programme and encouraged Trustees to attend. The Director-General was also congratulated on the publication of his Masterpieces book.

Willie Watt was approved as a member of the Audit & Risk Committee.

The Chairman reported that the guests attending the dinner the evening before the strategy day had given very positive feedback. The strategy day itself had also been a great success.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 30 March 2015

The minute of the meeting of 30 March 2015 was approved with minor amendments.

2.2 **Note of the Strategy Meeting of 27 April 2015**

Trustees asked if consideration had been given to setting up a trustee group to look at acquisition funding.

It was noted that building the Friends as the base of the membership pyramid was the priority. Sam Lagneau would be attending the Board in September to give Trustees the opportunity to discuss philanthropy further.

3 **Matters Arising**

Colleagues discussed the current position with Glasgow and the Nathan Coley work.

Strategy

4 **Corporate Plan 2015-18**

The Plan had been discussed previously and was simply an updated version of the 2014-18 Plan. It was noted that the 2016 version would be amalgamated with the Business Plan for 2016-20. The Board approved the Plan.

5 **Business Plan 2016-20**

The Director-General explained the background to the Business Plan and the reasons for its development.

Following discussion, the Chairman thanked Trustees for their input to the SMT sessions on business planning and branding.

6 **Departmental and Gallery Reports**

6.1 **Scottish National Gallery**

Ms Allerston outlined the report.

6.1.1 **Acquisitions: Requests for Use of Trust Funds**

John Duncan, *Ivory, Apes and Peacocks, The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*

- Approved for purchase.

Thomas Hosmer Shepherd, *A Collection of 80 Views of Edinburgh*

- Purchased at auction. Retrospectively approved for purchase.

6.2 **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**

Mr Baker outlined the report.

6.2.1 **Acquisitions: Requests for Use of Trust Funds**

Alastair Reid by Fionna Carlisle
- Approved for purchase.

6.3 **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**

The report was noted.

6.3.1 **Acquisitions: Requests for Use of Trust Funds**

Mother & Child by Norah Neilson Gray
- Purchased at auction. Retrospectively approved for purchase.

6.3.2 **Artist Rooms Gift**

The following gift was accepted with thanks:
- Carl Andre, *144 Titanium Square* 2015

6.4 **Operations**

6.4.1 **Fire Report**

Mr Doneghan joined the meeting and explained the background to the fire report. There were a number of recommendations, which Mr Doneghan outlined. An action plan was now in place and this would be taken forward by the Health & Safety Committee under the management of Ms Catterall and Mr Doneghan.

The original brief from the Board was to look at sprinkler systems following the Glasgow School of Art fire. The report, which had been compiled by an external consultant, recommended investigating this in some areas of Modern One and Two but considered that there was no need to investigate at the SNG or the PG. It was suggested that it might be worth looking at misting systems rather than sprinklers.

It was agreed to bring this back to the Board in January. NC

6.4.2 Modern One Incident Report

Mr Doneghan reported on the recent water leak at Modern One. The other galleries were being investigated for similar problems and an annual inspection had been put in place for the future.

It was noted that the Disaster Contingency Plan was put into effect immediately on discovery of the leak. All works had been salvaged and nothing damaged. Trustees commended the response to the incident.

Mr Doneghan left the meeting.

6.5 Public Engagement

9.5.1 Visitor Figures: March - May 2015

Noted.

6.6 Collection Care Division Annual Report 2014-15

Ms Ridge outlined activity in the Collection Care Division over the previous year. Ms Ridge explained the concept of the professional register which allows NGS flexibility to respond to peaks and troughs in activity.

7 Public Programme

7.1 2014-15 Public Programme Evaluation

The Director-General explained the report.

8 Annual Reports & Compliance Matters

8.1 Performance Measures: Quarter 4 Report

Noted.

8.2 Health & Safety Annual Report

The report was noted. There had been no reportable incidents in 2014-15.

The Trustees thanked the Health & Safety Manager for the report.

8.3 Freedom of Information Annual Report

Noted.

8.4 Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive: Definition of Public Task

The Director-General explained that the PSI directive now extended to the museums and galleries sector. There was an implication for the resale of images of the collection and offering those on the same terms as we offer to the Trading Company.

The Public Task was approved, noting that some work still had to be done on the custom practices. Trustees were happy for the final version to be approved by the Chairman and Mr Dodds. EA

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Code of Conduct (Revised May 2015): Incorporation of Social Media Guidance

Approved. Ms Anderson agreed to circulate the Social Media policy for reference. EA

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday 7 September 2015.