

Minutes of EAY Executive Committee Meeting 4 November 2007

Place Park Hotel, Thessalonica, Greece
Attendance Peter Posner, President
Beate Breithaupt, Vice President
Ed Eggink, Treasurer
Olga Lukina, Assessor
Marina Michailidou, Assessor
Arthur Kazaryan, Assessor
Dino Curcuruto, Assessor
Kåre Dag Mangersnes, Recording Secretary
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Secretary General
Michal Szymanczak, Deputy Secretary General
Eva Tschornová, Office Manager

Apologies Tom Cusens, Assessor

1 Devotions

Peter Posner opened the meeting with devotion. He reflected around the C in YMCA. He underlined that we should be proud of our Christian centred movement.

2 Opening Remarks and Apologies

Peter Posner opened the meeting. Apologies received from Tom Cusens.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

A few agenda items were added under Any Other Business.

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting March 2007

Decision: The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

5 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

6 Reports Decisions and Operational Plans

6.1 European Secretariat and Staffing

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. The stability in the staff is an important asset. They are motivated and capable people.

Johanna Hippe will work as an intern at the office until after the YMCA Europe 2008 festival.

Ian Luck will be employed as Festival Manager for a limited time before and after the festival.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik went through his travel schedule.

6.2 Movement Development

Beate Breithaupt and Michal Szymanczak brought up the issue from the Movement Development meeting.

The Executive Committee took notice of the information from the Baltic Partner Group that their group is no longer active, as its work has come to an end. It is no longer seen as needed.

6.3 Christian Community

Cees Bremer reported on the behalf of Tom Cusens.

At the moment there is still no new leader of the group.

They want to know the theme of the next GA as soon as possible, as it is a lot of work to plan the devotions.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported on the European Ecumenical meeting in Romania in September 2007, on which 2 volunteers took part on behalf of YMCA Europe.

6.4 European Programmes

Written reports were received.

Marina Michailidou made additional remarks on the overall coordination.

There are different levels of involvement in the preparations for the YMCA Europe 2008. Most Programme Groups are heavily involved in the planning of the programme for the festival.

Olga Lukina reported on the VfE and European Ten Sing.

Marina Michailidou reported on ESG.

Dino Curcuruto reported on ESY and EOTN. There is a need for new people in the EOTN group. There is a growing interest in camping, and this group could be an important meeting place and resource pool for movements that want to explore camping as a program field.

The proposal from Poland and Ukraine to arrange a European Championship in football will be forwarded to the European Sport YMCA.

Arthur Kazaryan reported on the Social Inclusion. The group needs to be strengthened, and the work with this is in good process.

6.5 WAY and Global Cooperation

Peter Posner reported. Written report was received.

He informed about the work to look for a new Fair Share system. A next meeting on this issue is scheduled in January in Geneva

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported on our cooperation with the other areas. The GOP is a good tool to build cooperation and common work.

The mentor scheme is also a tool in the realization of the GOP.

6.6 European Representation

Kåre Dag Mangersnes reported. For different reasons, there has been not much coordination done.

Arthur Kazaryan reported from the Study Session in Strasbourg, named "Making your voice heard in the European Institutions" (??).

He also reported on the work to recruit to new members.

They will explore the opportunity to have a joint seminar with the social inclusion work in order to explore the concept of acting political to sell our social ideas.

6.7 Finances

Written report from Ed Eggink was received. A new system of book keeping is being introduced. Expenses are within the budget approved by the GA in 2006. Income is still a challenge, but there are some prospects that are hopeful. At the moment it looks like we will have a small deficit at the end of the year.

In the middle of October we had to fulfil our obligation to the City of Litomysl regarding the financing of the Training Centre. We have paid, but we still need additional fundraising in order not to weaken the financial position of YMCA Europe.

The Executive Committee was challenged to involve them selves in the fundraising, as all small contributions are welcome.

Due to the Training Centre and YMCA Europe 2008 festival, the cash flow of YMCA Europe is under pressure. It is according to plan, but still causes stress on the finances.

Ed informed about the ongoing discussions with the Swiss movement about the size of their national contribution and about their debts. The Executive Committee supported his approach and decided to send a letter to the Board of the Swiss YMCA with an invoice for the existing debts.

7 YE Festival 2008

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported.

The role of the Executive Committee during the festival was discussed. There are a number of YMCA leaders coming that needs to be taken care of, and the Executive Committee will be involved in this.

8 YE Global Operating Plan

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported.

9 YE Training Centre

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported.

10 World Alliance Matters

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik and Peter Posner reported.

11 General Assemblies

11.1 GA 2007

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik presented the feedback from the General Assembly in Kiev. There was positive feedback on the atmosphere, and also mainly on the program. The recommendations were noted and will be taken into consideration of the planning group for the next assembly.

11.2 GA 2008

30. April - 4. May 2008, Litomysl, Czech Republic.

11.3 GA 2009

The General Assembly 2009 will be in Dassel, near Hanover, Germany.

12 YE Award

Possible candidates were discussed.

13 Next meetings

8. - 9. March 2008 Executive Committee meeting in the Netherlands

7. - 8. March 2008 Auditors meeting in the Netherlands

7. (morning) - 8. November 2008 Movement Development meeting Bucharest, Romania

9. -10. November 2008 Executive Committee meeting Bucharest, Romania

16 Any other business

- An opportunity to explore an investment project was considered. The Executive Committee did not support the plan, as it was too short time to do a proper examination of it, and because they did not want to increase the working load for the staff for the next year.

- The EAY email accounts will be closed by the end of November this year.

(Eva stressed the importance of sending the invoices of the travels for the Executive Committee as soon as possible after the meeting)

17 Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked the participants for a good and engaged meeting.

Kåre Dag Mangersnes
Recording Secretary