

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------------|---|
| DATE | 2 April 2011 | TIME | 10:00 | VENUE | Ward Room - Military History Museum, Johannesburg |
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ATTENDANCE

Present

Role

| | |
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| Michael Poll | President (Chair) |
| Chris Stewart | Council Member |
| Lerika Cross | Secretary |

Via Skype

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| Ian Glass | Vice President and Membership Secretary |
| Christian Hettlage | Web Master |
| Lia Labuschagne | Cape Town Centre Rep |
| Apologies (a) and not present | |
| Adv AJ Nel (a) | Council Member and Treasurer |
| Auke Slotegraaf (a) | Council Member and Sky Guide Editor |
| Matie Hoffman | Vice President |
| Maciej Soltynski (a) | Council Member, Convenor of Scholarship Committee |
| Case Rijdsdijk (a) | Vice President, Garden Route Centre Rep, MNASSA Editor |
| Chris de Coning (a) | Bloemfontein Centre Rep |
| Constant Volschenk | Johannesburg Centre Rep |
| John Saunders (a) | Hermanus Centre Rep |
| Peter Cramb (a) | Durban Centre Rep |

NOTE: Names responsible for progressing key actions are in bold

| | Agenda Points | Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Welcome | M Poll welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. |
| 2 | Acceptance of Minutes Matters arising from the minutes of 5 Feb 2010 | The minutes of 5 February 2010 were accepted. Matters arising from the previous meeting are covered in the agenda items covered below. Agenda items tabled were accepted |
| 3 | Financial matters | <p>3.1 Update received from Cliff Turk on the financial audits was tabled and noted:</p> <p>“I have received the 2008/2009 Accounts from the Auditors and have been trying to get them signed by any of the then Council Members who are in Cape Town before sending them on to you for signature by you and Michael Poll. They will then have to be returned to the Auditors for them to sign their final certificate before they can be published in MNASSA.</p> <p>The 2009/2010 Accounts were completed by me and passed to the Auditors on 11 February 2011. I have not had any phone calls for clarification etc as usually happens if the clerk doing most of the work does not understand something, so there may be a delay in allocating time for the audit. At this stage I do not know.”</p> |

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| | | <p>3.2 Cliff also noted in his reply that the Council consider the current ASSA Auditor – Ronnie Glass (no relation of Ian)- be made an honorary member. The meeting discussed this and asked that L Cross ask Cliff to submit a formal request.</p> <p>3.3 Handover to the new Treasurer – report provided by AJ Nel, tabled: “I have had full access to the banking as from 17 March and have effected payments as reflected herein; I have further done deposit of various membership cheques received from Lerika; I am finally receiving various financial documents and am collating the same. I have done three scholarship payments, two of R 5000 each and one of R 10 000. I have further paid two council members for expenses incurred and paid for a further order of the SkyGuide.”</p> <p>3.4 Tax Implications – report received from AJ Nel: “The draft constitution conforms to the requirements for registration of the ASSA as a non-profit organisation; Once in effect the application to be declared as the same can be done; As the finances stand (and from what I have seen in the bank statements) the ASSA seem to fall under the tax registration threshold. That said I would need to see the actual financials to be sure’.</p> <p>3.5 ASSET – explanation received from C Turk as requested: “Details of the ASSA Endowment Trust (ASSET) appeared in MNASSA Centrepiece for October 1997 for the information of all members of the Society. A copy of the Notarial Deed of Trust dated 27 June 1977 was presented to Council soon after that date and was handed to the then Secretary for safe keeping. Council has never been very supportive of the Trust, but has accepted grants made to it by the Trustees, especially when the ASSA's finances were severely stretched.”</p> <p>3.6 Request from M Soltynski to transfer R20 000 from general funds to ring fenced scholarships funds: This payment has been effected.</p> |
| 4 | Membership | <p>4.1 New Members</p> <p>Council ratified these proposed members (provided by I Glass) who have sent in their application forms and are listed as having paid:</p> <p>Dr GJ Begemann Komatipoort 1340 Mr M Coqui Mowbray 7864 Mr V Ellis Boksburg 1459 Mr EV Flattery, Lobatse, Botswana Mr R Fourie Pomona 1620 Mr EJJ Forster Brackenfell 7560 Mr NJS Grobler Randburg 2194 Mr C Hardon Newlands 0049 Mrs C Ives Bryanston 2062 Mr WF Prinsloo Hekpoort 1790 Mr P Strauss Kloof 3610 Mr ZJ van Orel Bronte Edleen 1626</p> <p>5.2 I Glass reported the number of members as 221 (last month 156) including the 13 honorary members.</p> |
| 5 | Scholarships | <p>5.1 M Soltynski provided this report on the Scholarships</p> |

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| | | <p>“Scholarships awarded for 2011 Scholarships committee (Maciej Soltynski, Andrew Gray, Ian Glass and Enrico Oliver (SAAO)) awarded the following: ASSA Scholarship (R10000):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Antel 3rd year BSc student at UCT <p>SAAO-ASSA Scholarships (R5000 each) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen Versfeld (ASSA member) 2nd year BSc at UNISA • Fawaaz Davids 1st year BSc at UCT • Ratolo Modise 1st year BSc at UNISA – subject to his registration later this year <p>Scholarship news Wendy Williams, a past ASSA Scholarship holder has completed her MSc (A near-infrared study of HI galaxies in the Zone of Avoidance) at UCT and this year started her PhD at Leiden. She writes: ‘I started here in January and will be here for the next four years. My PhD project is on LOFAR observations of radio galaxies. The aim is to use the lowest frequencies available from LOFAR to investigate the physics of these radio sources and their impact on their environment.’</p> |
| 6 | Editorial Board Matters | <p>Sky Guide matters</p> <p>6.1 Sky Guide Editor Contract Contract with the Sky Guide Editor 2012 - Auke Slotegraaf – needs to be signed by M Poll and AJ Nel. A copy of the contract will be attached to the minutes for general information to Council.</p> <p>6.2 Number of Sky Guide 2012 for ASSA: The proposed constitution change could affect the number of Sky Guides to be printed and be a factor in deciding what capitation charge might be required - the run-on copy pricing options. The options will be assessed by the Editorial Board. But the process requires an estimate of the numbers involved: Ian calculated an estimated 620 Sky Guides would be needed. This is as good an estimate as there is possible at the moment.</p> <p>MNASSA matters:</p> <p>6.3 MNASSA April Edition: The quote from Megadigital W Koorts provided for printing the April issue - 260 copies - R2959.42 – was accepted during the month by AJ Nel and the invoice will be addressed to AJ Nel. As Ian will be away from 11 April for 3 weeks he has prepared the envelopes with address labels and return stamped them and Willie Koorts has kindly agreed to put the MNASSAs inside and put on the postage stamps. Willie will claim from the Hon. Treasurer for the cost of the stamps.</p> <p>6.4 The April edition is the second last edition that will be mailed and the June/July edition the last.</p> <p>6.5 Additional fee for receiving printed MNASSA: Ian noted that there are some 12 members that asked for mailed copies and these will continue. It was discussed and agreed that there will be no advice to these members about increased membership fee (Ian estimated R50) as result of a mailed copy – this will be finalised after the new Constitution has been finalised.</p> |
| 7 | Website | <p>7.1 ASSA Mail list: C Hettlage reported that the ASSA mail list has been set-up and functioning well – there are about 83 subscribers. Council expressed its appreciation to SAAO and Christian for the resources and effort in getting the mail list up and running.</p> |

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| 8 | Historical Section | <p>8.1 ASSA Archives to UCT Archive: C de Coning advised that he decided to deposit the archives. He writes: “ Nobody deposits archives, although the option is available. All their stuff are donations. I decided to go the different route as this is the archives of a society, not an individual that dies and the relatives do not know what to do with the documents. In our case we are about to celebrate our Centenary. I hope that in a hundred years time our 200th anniversary will go off with a healthy society. We do not know what the future holds and the next director of the historical section may have other ideas. Thus I do not want to close any doors for future generations. I am waiting for UCT to prepare the necessary legal papers. “</p> <p>Council expressed its gratitude for the initiative and solution proposed by Chris de Coning.</p> |
| 9 | ASSA Review | <p>9.1 Draft new Constitution: AJ Nel sent the draft Constitution to the 5 members of Council who have progressed the review up to this point. The 5 Council members will review this draft on Saturday 9 April.</p> <p>Next steps agreed – see the key dates noted in the section below.</p> |
| 10 | Gill Medal | <p>10.1 The nominee proposal from C Rijdsdijk for the Gill Medal was tabled and the process to follow was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If no further proposals are received, L Cross will circulate the proposal from Case to Council on 9 April with the request to vote and also the process to follow for voting. <p>10.2 Chris Stewart volunteered to contact the SA Mint about the medal plates; he requested a letter of introduction to be prepared (L Cross to assist)</p> |
| 11 | General | <p>11.1 ASSA Symposium in Cape Town: L Labuschagne noted that there is not an organising committee and not a date yet fixed for the symposium.</p> |
| 12 | Key future dates | <p>Constitution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 10 April: The 5 Council members who drafted the suggested amendments finalise the draft; (2) 11 April: Draft Constitution is sent to Council and Centre chairs for comment by 6 May (3) 14 May: final comments are tabled and finalised at Council meeting (4) 23 May: Envelopes with draft Constitution and voting form is mailed to ASSA members for return by 13 June; same is placed on website and request mailed to the ASSA mail list; (5) Ballot result to be assessed at the Council meeting to be held on 18 June 2011 <p>AGM: 3 August</p> <p>Section Directors reports end April: L Cross will send a reminder to the Section Directors that their reports are due at month end</p> |
| 13 | Closure Next Meeting | <p>M Poll thanked everyone for their contribution and closed the meeting at 11.20</p> <p>Next Council Meetings: Sat 14 May, 18 June, 16 July 10:00 start at the Military History Museum</p> |

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____

Chair: M Poll

Attachment: SGAS Editor 2012 Editor Contract