



Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Company

Friday 29 May 2020, at 1:00PM AEDT/12.30pm ACDT/10:00AM AWST using Zoom Cloud Meeting technology

Present:

BOARD & MANAGEMENT:

Belinda Locke (Chair)

Coralie Bishop

Liz Martin

Carol Taylor

Leah Maund

Bev East (Interim CEO)

ORIGINAL MEMBERS:

Martin Sawtell (representing Original Member Access2Arts)

Kerry Comerford (representing Original Member Accessible Arts)

Caroline Bowditch (representing Original Member Arts Access Victoria)

Malika MacLeod (representing Original Member DADAA)

Jenine Mackay (representing Original Member Incite Arts)

ORDINARY MEMBERS:

Emma Bennison; Debbie Chilton; Chelle Destefano; Harmonie Downes; Madeleine Little; Maxxi May; Larissa MacFarlane; Anna Molnar; Alison Richardson; Autumn Skuthorpe; Lesa Walker; Suzanne Whiteman

Apologies:

Peter Kearney, Treasurer

David Doyle (CEO, Original Member DADAA)

1. Open meeting

1.1. Quorum

With a quorum present, the Chair opened the meeting at 1:08pm AEST.

1.2. Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, their connections to land, sea and community; and paid respect to their elders past and present and future.

2. Apologies

The Chair received and noted the apologies for the meeting.

3. Conflicts or declarations of interest

The Chair noted her nomination for her third and final Board term and requested that, due to a longstanding personal relationship, Anna Molnar abstain from voting on the Chair's election. Anna Molar acknowledged and accepted that request.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

The Chair put the motion:

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 31 May 2019 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Kerry Comerford Seconded: Leah Maund CARRIED

5. Chair's Report

The Chair presented the 2019 activities report:

2019 was another busy and successful year for Arts Access Australia in regard to achievements to increase opportunities and access to the Arts for people with disability.

The 2019 activity highlights included:

- Convening AAA's signature event, Meeting Place in Canberra on the International Day of Disability in December 2019.
- Co-presenting the Arts Access Australia's inaugural Leadership Award in conjunction with the Australia Council for the Arts.
- Funding for travel grant recipients to allow them to join Arts Access Australia at the events.

The Chair expressed the Board's gratitude to the Australia Council for the Arts for their continual support, and to all the organisations and individuals whose support had allowed Arts Access Australia to deliver another year of successful initiatives.

The Chair thanked the staff of Arts Access Australia for delivering the year's activities, in particular, Yvette Tulloch, Maxxi May and Harmonie Downes. A special acknowledgement was made to the former Arts Access Australia CEO, Megan Shand – her hard work and commitment in 2019 was a major contributor to the success of the year.

The Chair put the motion:

The report by the Chair of 2019 activities for Arts Access Australia be accepted.

Moved: Jenine Mackay Seconded: Carol Taylor CARRIED

6. Audited Financial Statements

6.1. Approval of audited financial statements 2019

The Chair invited the interim CEO, Bev East, to speak to the 2019 audited Financial Reports in the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Kearney. The interim CEO advised the following key points:

- The full year results for 2019 recorded a loss of \$54,653.
- The overall revenue for Arts Access Australia in 2019 was higher than 2018; however a large number iconic events and busy advocacy activities were organised and held in 2019 leading to increased expenditure too.
- Revenue was \$332,000 and expenses were \$387,000. The full year loss could be accommodated within the overall financials of Arts Access Australia. The balance sheet remained strong with a surplus of nearly \$97,000.
- The loss could be attributed mostly to the Meeting Place event costing more than budgeted and with those activities occurring in December 2019, there was no time to offset those cost overruns.
- The independent Audit had not produced any material findings or qualifications of the audit. The Auditors had signed off on the Audit and that Arts Access Australia remained a going concern.

The Chair put the motion:

That the audited financial statements for 2019 and the report by the Auditor be accepted.

Moved: Coralie Bishop Seconded: Liz Martin CARRIED

6.2. Appointment of Auditor

The Chair noted that Brian Tucker Audit had been purchased by AMW Audit. They had undertaken the 2019 audit and it was recommended that AMW Audit be retained for the 2020 Audit.

The Chair put the motion:

That AMW Audit (formerly Brian Tucker Audit) be retained to undertake the 2020 Audit.

Moved: Jenine Mackay Seconded: Leah Maund CARRIED

7. Election of Board Members

The Chair invited the Company Secretary, Coralie Bishop, to announce the nominations for the Board of Arts Access Australia.

7.1. Original Board Members

No nominations were received for election as a director representing Original Members.

7.2. Ordinary Board Members

Three nominations were received for election as a director representing Ordinary Members from: Belinda Locke, Carol Taylor and Larissa MacFarlane.

There are three vacancies for directors representing Ordinary Members.

The Secretary put the motion:

That Belinda Locke be elected as a director representing Ordinary Members.

Moved: Coralie Bishop Seconded: Carol Taylor CARRIED

The Secretary put the motion:

That Carol Taylor be elected as a director representing Ordinary Members ber.

Moved: Emma Bennison Seconded: Leah Maund CARRIED

The Secretary put the motion:

That Larissa MacFarlane be elected as a director representing Ordinary Members.

Moved: Caroline Bowditch Seconded: Madeline Little CARRIED

The Secretary declared Belinda Locke, Carol Taylor and Larissa MacFarlane elected as a directors representing Ordinary Members.

8. Other Business

8.1. Future of AAA and activities underway

The Chair advised that Arts Access Australia had been unsuccessful in receiving Australia Council for the Arts funding beyond 2021. 2020 was the final year of the four-year funding. One-year of transitional funding had been offered for 2021. The Chair reassured Members that the Board was committed to efforts to ensure the survival of Arts Access Australia to undertake critical national advocacy, facilitation and leadership on arts and disability matters, as done in the past.

The Chair advised that Arts Access Australia had commenced conversations with key government agencies, including: Australia Council for the Arts, Office of the Arts, and the Department of Social Services to create opportunities for Arts Access Australia to collaborate to identify potential activity streams and funding opportunities not accessed in the past. A working party of the Board was convening regularly to discuss and debate options for the way forward. In the short term, a letter would be drafted to the Australia Council for the Arts to express Arts Access Australia's concern of the loss of funding and to clearly articulate the impact on the access and opportunities for deaf and disabled artists and individuals in accessing the Arts.

The Chair noted the recruitment efforts for the position of CEO and welcomed all members to share the EOI for the position within their networks.

She invited all members to contact the Board to discuss any of the above mentioned or other initiatives. The Board would keep members and stakeholders updated with new developments as they unfold.

9. Meeting close

There being no other business to be brought before the meeting, the Chair closed the meeting at 1:42pm AEST.

SIGNED as a correct and accurate record of the meeting:

Chair

Date: