

Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting

Monday 2 November 2020 at 4.00-5.00pm (via Zoom, 73 attendees)

1. WELCOME FROM GEM CHAIR, CAROLINE MARCUS

Opening remarks: Caroline Marcus, GEM Chair of Trustees welcomed everyone to the first GEM virtual AGM given the challenging news just received relating to another lockdown and that GEM will help to continue to support the sector, with mentoring and training.

Caroline shared GEM's highlights: GEM is at the final stages of its NLHF supported project A Stronger GEM for a Stronger Sector, which is working to improve governance, develop 5-year business plan and create a new vision for GEM. We thank NLHF, the consultants and everyone who has participated in this project including GEM Members. Caroline provided a summary of GEM's achievements including the development of training, conference in Torquay, and the office move to Chatham Dockyard.

GEM is a unique community that connects and learns together. Caroline thanked the members commitment to GEM and sharing of resources, the volunteers, Area Representatives and collaborative organisations. The GEM team were thanked for doing some remarkable things and exemplary work in these Covid times and the Trustees for making a positive impact.

2 RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

3 RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE 69TH AGM

The minutes of the 69th AGM were received.

4 RECEIVE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Richard Bruce, GEM Treasurer provided a summary of the 2019 Annual Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2019. The accounts were received and an opportunity was given to ask questions.

5 RECEIVE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Rachel Tranter, Director of GEM gave an overview of the 2019 annual report which was received by members including graphics showing membership rates, training activity and income and expenditure for 2019. The news that progress has been made since 2019 with GEM members increasing to over 730 and that the GEM online training events have been

attended by over 1400 participants this year, was well received. The 2019 Annual Report can be accessed on the GEM website.

6 APPOINT ACCOUNTANTS

It was agreed that Bradbury Stell would be re-appointed as GEM's independent examiner.

7 GEM VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Caroline Marcus introduced the new GEM Vision and GEM logo.

Caroline thanked everyone who has contributed to this new vision which has been developed with the support of Richard Watts of People Make it Work. Particular thanks to the area reps, GEM and MA conference delegates and responses to our survey. It encapsulates the essence of GEM and will help GEM move positively into the future.

8 MEMBERSHIP RATES

Rachel Tranter presented the proposed new membership rates stating that GEM currently has a flat membership structure with one level for institutions regardless as to whether they are a small independent museum or large National museum. To ensure a fairer membership structure that supports GEM's sustainability, following consultation, we are looking at introducing a new 4 level rate structure. Given the current uncertainty in the sector with lockdown 2, these rates will be introduced in 2021. All staff and volunteers will be able to make use of the new Institutional membership benefit. It was suggested that GEM could consult with the Botanic Gardens Educators Network regarding their recent changes to membership rates as a comparison.

9 ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Sue Pope was thanked for all her hard work and support as a GEM Trustee throughout the last 6 years. Sue will continue to support GEM as a freelance representative.

With regards to nominations to the Board, Caroline Marcus commented that GEM has received some excellent nominations who once selected we hope will be joining us for the GEM December Board meeting.

10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: HENRY MCGHIE

Henry McGhie gave his keynote address *Museum education for a better world: connecting the work of GEM with Agenda 2030, Transforming Our World*. Henry's presentation slides and recording of his talk will be made available to everyone who registered for the AGM.

11 Q&A

Questions were put to Henry McGhie on his talk and interest in a follow up event were expressed by those attending.

12 CLOSING REMARKS

Caroline Marcus thanked everyone for attending.

NOTES

A recording of the 70th AGM and slides, 2019 Annual Accounts/Report and Minutes of the 2019 AGM are available on the GEM website.