

Pride Glasgow Annual General Meeting 2018

16th December 2018 7pm

Present: Chris Lang (Chair)
David Sinclair (Treasurer)
Ewan McLean
John Ryan - minute taker
Donna Aitken - minute taker
49 other members

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chris

Chris introduced himself to the meeting and then introduced the one other Trustee David. Chris explained himself and David assumed their office positions in August 2018.

Chris then introduced Ewan McLean, who has come forward this year and put forward recommended governance and constitutional changes. Ewan will go into further detail later in the meeting.

2. A report on the activities of the organisation

Chris

Chris presented a short presentation on the activities including:

- Alastair Smith left the board of Trustees September 2018
- Ross Stevenson left the board of Trustees August 2018
- Billy McNamara was removed as a Trustee at an EGM earlier today due to no contact / non attendance
- Kevin McMenemy left the board of Trustees May 2018

Chris explained how the previous board was a closed board, with the Trustees being the only members. Ewan McLean had kindly offered to come up with some governance changes which allowed this to change. This was all agreed at an Extraordinary general meeting earlier today.

Chris then discussed how new Trustees would be appointed, which would be through an appointments Committee.

3. Annual Accounts

David

David presented the annual accounts produced by Elaine Alsop ACA and explained these had not been signed off yet, these were received the night before and both Trustees had just agreed before this meeting to sign them off, these will now be processed by our accountant and sent to OSCR. The accounts will then be publicised on our website.

It was explained how up until now accounts had always been examined by an Independent Examiner, who does not necessarily have to be a Chartered Accountant as income was less than £250,000.

Figures up until October 2017 are not available and have been requested by our accountant and David. It was explained this forms part of a police report due to the accounts etc being assets of the charity.

David explained there was a negative balance sheet and these figures were shared with the AGM.

David explained there had been two reports to Police regarding an ex employee or employees, he was restricted in confirming how many person(s) this involved. He believes £42,000 has been 'mis-spent' during the last financial year.

Question from AGM:

Who are the biggest creditors owed money to?

DS: Glasgow City Council £42,000, David explained they have been waiting some time on a breakdown of these costs. Some of these costs were also historical relating to older events at Glasgow Green.

Question from AGM:

£42,000 disappeared - any chance of getting it back?

DS: We hope so, Police are investigating and we would hope so.

Question from AGM:

What safeguards have been put in place to prevent unauthorised expenditure?

DS: all transactions require 2 signatories. Accountant and a volunteer has put forward financial control recommendations, which we have implemented, these are available to view on the standing orders on our website.

Question from AGM:

How do you propose to pay deficit using fundraising with lack of trust?

CL: Nearly £500,000 of income from last year's event alone. 4-5 years ago the event cost around £60,000, so there is work to be done around make the event more cost effective and learning from the mistakes previously made.

Question from AGM:

Does the debt include the unauthorised transactions?

DS: Yes it does

4. Governance Reform Progress Update

Ewan

Chris welcomed Ewan and thanked him for work on the governance reform.

- Single tier board structure to an open AGM (with a trading subsidiary)
- Membership / Forum - Over 16s, £1 per year. Electing Pride Forum with 15 spaces.
- Reserved spaces for Trans, Women, BME, Intersex etc people.
- Forum will appoint from its members 3 people to the appointments committee, who will appoint Trustees

Trustees - maximum 5 year term

Question:

Can someone be on the event management team and a Trustee?

Ewan: Preferably not but this would be ultimately down to the appointments committee.

Question: Page 21 of Standing orders, why does it refer to him / her.

Ewan: Sorry, we will look at that and sort it.

5. Election of Pride Forum

Ewan

20+ candidates had come forward during the course of the evening for the Pride Forum and only 13 places.

It was proposed we do an online ballot, however the overwhelming feeling in the room was for the first year that all persons putting themselves forward be given a place on the Forum.

It was agreed that people could amend their statements and these could then be added on to Pride Glasgow's website. Ewan agreed we would contact all candidates and welcome them to the forum and offer the opportunity to amend their statement if they wish.

6. Any other Business

Chris, David,

Ewan

Dates for next year?

PG: 5 dates we are looking at for next year, we have to bear in mind other events in the City and venue availability.

Venue?

PG: Kelvingrove Park is definitely not going to be considered. Glasgow Green seems to be the preferred option publicly but may prove difficult with other events and monies owed to Glasgow City Council.

Have a favoured venue, which we have viewed, but for contractual reasons can not disclose

How can people contact elected members / forum?

PG: There are various options that we would encourage the Forum to explore

Improved disabled access?

PG: Agreed and current venues looking at would resolve most of our accessibility issues

When would trustee appointments be made?

PG: This would be down to the appointments committee but we hope by middle of January 2019.

Call for family focussed event

PG: Early plans for 2019 would be a number of events, workshops, comedy etc. A small, more intimate community feel spread over the week(s) leading around the event and / or year.

March would remain free. Elements of the main event would be free.

Remove VIP area, causes division?

PG: This is a big source of income for the organisation and 290 of those who did not gain access last year have been promised VIP tickets for 2019 which we are upholding.

PG asked the room for alternatives. No alternatives were put forward.

Ticketing issues in 2018, how do you prevent this from reoccurring?

DS: David explained last year there were 3 ticketing sites used, which is unfeasible. He has already met one ticketing company and all the requirements he is looking for in one ticketing site they are able & willing to implement. Including ensuring ticket numbers are capped at correct levels.

PG: it was also explained up until now Pride Glasgow has always applied for a minor event licence, which is less than 6,000 people. It may well be that going forward we have to consider a major event licence (over 6,000 people).

Would you be renewing the contract with Manchester Airport?

PG: This was a multi year deal, discussions have already begun back in September and PG will pick this up again in the New Year.

Would the person(s) associated with the financial issues consider putting out a public apology and explanation?

PG: This is unlikely due to their being police investigations looming.

Do you forecast attendance issues next year, after this years events?

PG: We conducted an organisation (DOG media) to conduct Social Media Analysis & this found the number one search item on Google under 'Pride Glasgow 2019' was 'Pride Glasgow 2019 tickets' or 'dates'.

DOG also conducted surveys on our behalf and found the majority would return.

How will you combat negativities?

PG: Serious of events over the course of 2019. A journalist coming on board, so we will work with them to promote positive publicity.

Accounts although the deadline is not until July 2019 for submitting to OSCR, Pride Glasgow aim to submit these in January.

Concerns raised around public safety on Pride march

PG: Last years march was the largest march ever in Scotland of any type. Police were allowing vehicles to enter in breaks in the march, we have already discussed this in depth with them and will continue to work with them on it.

Chris thanked those attending.

End of AGM.