

(Big) Rapar Forum
Wednesday 19th May 2004

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Cath Maffia, Peter Garwe, Miwanda-Bagenda, Rhetta Moran, Kay Fairhurst, Moses Nyagodzi, Mike Scantlebury, Juma Mohamed, Maryam Mohamed, Julia Farrand (Minutes).

Apologies: Nilofer Shaik, Ndjuimot.

Welcome and Introductions

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and we briefly introduced ourselves.

Accounts/Annual Reports/Change of Name of Officials

Companies House and the Charity Commissioners still need to have copies of the annual report and the accounts. They also need to be told of the change of names of executive committee members.

Miwanda is to fill in the necessary paperwork and ensure that this process is completed.

Peter Garwe is to visit the bank to see whether or not they have changed the names on the account yet.

Big Rapar's Postal Address

Through Cath Maffia, Peter Richardson of Salford Cathedral has asked if Big Rapar could stop using the Cathedral as its mailing address. It was pointed out that the original arrangement was negotiated through Rhetta. RAPAR is to contact Peter about this as it was felt that it is important to keep a clear and separate identity for Big Rapar by having a 'neutral' postal address.

Funding/Fund Raising

Funding was discussed and it was agreed that Julia Farrand would write up a draft funding bid asking for monies for publicity, refreshments, travel expenses, room booking, etc. for the Big Rapar forums. This bid would be circulated by post and email to all directly involved in the forum for their comments and additions.

Finding larger pots of money for premises and equipment for Big Rapar was also discussed. Premises would have to be identified and costings made before funds could be identified.

Three different types of funding strands were identified – money for general running costs, money for community based projects and money for specific projects.

It was felt that, although Big Rapar could support other groups to find funding, it could not act as a 'cheque clearance agent' for groups that are awarded money without Big Rapar's knowledge.

In the past this has caused difficulty as Big Rapar has had the responsibility of having the money in it's account, but has not known what the bid was for and how the money has been spent.

Funding for the Iranian group – it was clarified that this money, in fact, belong to a Kurdish group. The cheque has now been returned to Salford CVS and the group concerned are aware of this. A sensitive letter is to be sent to the group (Miwanda and Peter to organise) to clarify the situation around funding.

Leaflets and Publicity

Publicity for Big Rapar was briefly discussed – information leaflets can be part of the funding bid. Big Rapar also needs letterheads, which can also be bid for. Their design will be left until there is money to print them.

Aims and Objectives Day

Following on from the discussion around funding, it was decided to have an 'aims and objectives day' in June. The point of the day is to gather together all individuals and agencies who are interested in the future of Rapar, and together to look at where Big Raper has been, and where it is going.

After discussion it was decided to open the day up to all interested parties.

However concern was expressed that the if too many 'authorities' were represented in the membership of Big Rapar it risked being taken over and losing its autonomy which is based on its principle of working from the group up.

A date was agreed Saturday 12th June 2004 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Miwanda is to book a room at St. Sebastian's Church. Julia is to gather together names and addresses and invite a wide range of people and agencies to attend. Miwanda and Rhetta will also pass on some names and addresses of people who might be interested in coming along.

The date of the next forum meeting is to be brought forward so that an outline for the day can be discussed prior to its happening.

Training in Roles

All involved felt that the half day training had been very useful and informative. Mike Scantlebury was thanked for his time and effort. It was generally felt that it would be valuable to have this training again in a few months time for those who were unable to attend this time.

Membership of Rapar

There used to be a form that members could fill in. This is to be resurrected and passed on to Peter and Julia who would have joint responsibility for getting them filled in and keeping them together.

After discussion it was agreed that the Big Rapar's membership is essentially anyone who attends the forums and participates actively.

Volunteer Expenses

This was discussed in relation to the Saturday school. There are funds available for payment of expenses but the situation is rather complicated and the money has not been released yet. Miwanda is aware of what is happening. Donna Hewitt is in the process of writing a funding bid for Saturday school.

Any other Business

Compass Project

Rhetta has been approached to take part in a meeting around research bids at the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. She wanted to ask the forum for permission to go there, in part, as representative of Big Rapar. All felt that this would be a good idea. Rhetta is to feedback on this over the summer. Ongoing.

Visions of Zimbabwe

Rhetta recently became aware that Manchester City Art Gallery are holding an exhibition around the work of writers and artists from Zimbabwe. Herself and Peter have been involved in discussions with the gallery and it is hoped that Big Rapar can have some input into this. Ongoing.

Line Management of Salford Rapar

Rhetta informed the group that she has suspended her overall responsibility to deliver the Salford Rapar project since the PCT imposed Line Management – Dr. David Woodhead – onto the project.

There is to be a meeting in the near future, enabled through the funder (SRB via North West Development Agency) to consider the issues. No date has been set as yet.

Given her role inside of both Salford RAPAR and Big RAPAR, Rhetta left the

meeting at this point. General discussion took place as to Big Rapar's 'place' in this change.

It was finally agreed that a letter be sent to the North West Development Agencies and copied to relevant bodies on behalf of Big Rapar, which would express our concerns about a possible 'takeover'.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th June from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, upstairs meeting room, Salford Rapar, Pendleton House, Salford.

Please note change of venue as the Cathedral is not available on this date.

/ends