

CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinavisk Forening i Rom

Minutes from the Board Meeting

Date: 20.3.2023 - 21.3.2023

Time: 11.15

Location: Circolo Scandinavo

Attending: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Mia Törnqvist, Lars Strand, Ulf R. Hansson, Lone Falster, Marie Kraft, Linda Gaarder, Ingo Arnason, Charlotte Jansson

Absent: Björn Ross & Christine Aspelund

1. Opening of the meeting, selection of secretary

Kolbrún opens the meeting at 11.15. Charlotte will be the secretary of the meeting.

2. Financial situation update

NMR has shown no interest in continuing their support for Circolo in 2024, with the exception of the Icelandic ministers. This is partly due to the minister's lack of understanding of our operations.

The regular change of the cultural ministers and their staff is problematic since it generates a lack of a continuing relationship with the same persons. For Circolo to rely on one main source of income puts us in a fragile situation, and there is a need for another structure in order to secure adequate financing if the NMR draws back on its support.

The Board Members have written to the Nordic Council repeatedly without any success. Currently the director has to apply for funding three times a year from the NMR, due to their persistent misunderstanding of our association as a projectbased organisation. There is a need to change the Council's understanding of Circolo as a "year-basis-project" and create a long-term agreement with the ministers.

3. Action plan or Campaign for NMRs continuing support 2024

The Chair of the Board and the Director hope to have a meeting with the Nordic Ministers of Culture in May and try to convince them of the importance for continuing support.

The following actions will be taken in order to show the Council, as well as other authorities and the general public, the importance of Circolo's existence:

- Former AiRs that have been nominated or won one of the four Nordic Prizes will be contacted and asked to post short statements on their social media supporting Circolo
- Contact former AiR and ask them to make a statement about the value of their time here
- A video to present our case will be made by a professional videographer to be shown at the meeting with the Nordic Ministers of Culture in May
- The Nordic Embassies and Institutes will be asked to write a letter to the NMR that presents our co-operations and the value of Circolo for them
- Circolo will find out if we are eligible to apply for membership to Unione Internazionale degli Istituti di Archeologia Storia e Storia dell'Arte in Roma
- We will calculate the direct financial loss Circolo suffered during the pandemic and inform the ministers to see if we could apply for compensation. Take into account the reduced rent for the new residency and other means where we have managed to reduce costs.
- Make a list of what we have done in order to find extra financing and show the Ministers
- The hosts of the popular radio program and podcast *Norsken, svensken och dansken* will be asked to inform their audience about our situation
- Pay the membership fee and become members of ICOM, which would allow for great publicity and free entrances for our residents to all museums and archeological sites
- Expose slides of the NMRs own statements that contradicts their lack of support for Circolo
- And write a letter to the Nordic Queens, finding out if they would be interested in becoming patrons of the Skandinaviska Foreningen i Rom.

4. Membership

The guests to the AiRs have to be members of Circolo. Members of Circolo will have the possibility to rent a room at the residence when there is a vacancy and they will be invited to our events. Additional membership categories will be made.

5. General Assembly 2023

There is an interest of a Finnish board member and *Svenska Litteratursällskapet* in Finland has a nominee.

A change of the Statutes of the current obligation to re-elect members every two years by two other members is needed. An **election** committee to the board would be a big asset. Changes of the statutes require a General Assembly but if not at the Annual General Assembly it is possible to organise an Extraordinary General Assembly.

6. Any other item

All focus is placed on convincing the NMR to continue their funding. In the worst case scenario an emergency plan will be taken into action.

The time for the next Board Meeting will be set later.