

**MINUTES OF 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FINE MUSIC RADIO ASSOCIATION
held at Artscape, Cape Town on Saturday, November 4, 2017**

AGENDA:

1. Welcome and apologies – Mark Jennings
2. Approval of Minutes – Johann Vos (chairman)
3. Matters Arising – Johann Vos and Mark Jennings
4. Chairman's Report – Johann Vos
5. Presentation of Audited Financials – Brian Gardner
6. Appointment of Directors – Johann Vos
7. Open Discussion

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FMR Station Manager Mark Jennings welcomed all present. He introduced the chairman of the FMR board, Johann Vos. Apologies from board member Gordon Oliver were noted.

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved (prop. Len van Zyl, sec. Wouter Van Warmelo)

MATTERS ARISING

JV said matters arising would be dealt with in his report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JOHANN VOS

(See attached report)

PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIALS – BRIAN GARDNER

BG reported on the financial position of the company to the end of June 2017. He said the overall financial position was positive, with assets and cash being well managed. FMR has total equity of R3.8 million. As can be seen from the summary of revenue and expenses on the Financial Report, investment income was slightly up, and profits were slightly down, but this was because more had been spent on equipment for the station. Having lower profits is not a bad thing for a non-profit company, where surpluses should be used for the betterment of the organization.

The financials were approved by the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The board members due to retire were: Brian Gardner, Tanja Bosch and Gordon Oliver. Brian Gardner and Tanja Bosch stood for re-election. Gordon Oliver did not stand for re-election and Martin Hesse resigned.

In the place of the two vacancies, two people had been nominated to the board:

1. John van der Spuy, nominated by Leslie McKenzie.
2. Adv Francois Smuts, nominated by Johann Vos.

The re-election of Grian Gardner and Tanja Bosch, and the election of the two nominees were approved by all present.

The board now comprises: Johann Vos (chairman), Len van Zyl, Victoria Cawood, Brian Gardner, Tanja Bosch, Lenore Ehlers, John van der Spuy and Francois Smuts.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Eyewitness News

Some members voiced criticism of the weekly lunchtime Eyewitness News bulletins that had been introduced during the year, saying they were not in keeping with the more subdued bulletins read by FMR presenters during the rest of the day.

In their defence, MJ said the bulletins gave a good cross-section of the news of the day. Programme manager Rodney Trudgeon said the response to the news bulletins, which included actuality content, had been mainly positive, with the only criticism being the occasional bad sound quality of the actuality clips. He said on the whole it was a wonderful news service as a whole and a plus for the station.

Music content

Virginia Oosthuizen said there was not enough classical vocal music and songs (liedere), with too many transcriptions.

MJ said a programming team would soon be convening to relook programming on the station and reassess listeners' needs.

Community involvement

There were compliments from the floor for FMR's increased community involvement, particularly among the disadvantaged. One project singled out was the outing to the Waterfront for mentally ill patients on Mental Awareness Day in October.

It was suggested that FMR increase publicity about Cape Town's water shortage.

Board composition

Outgoing board member MH suggested that a place on the board be reserved for a representative of FMR's volunteer presenters, considering their huge contribution to the station.

Volunteer announcer Jon Geidt said he had been concerned about the wording accompanying the board nomination forms to the effect that presenters were precluded from nomination, saying "it limits us".

VC explained that there have been volunteer board members in the past, and that it should not be cast in stone that volunteer presenters are ineligible for nomination. However, she did not think it necessary to have a permanent volunteer representative on the board. It was tried in the past and was not a success. She suggested that there be a forum for volunteers in which practical issues can be aired. She also noted that as FMR has developed, it has moved from being a largely volunteer organization into a more professional one.

MJ said the board has an oversight role, but it is up to management to manage the day-to-day running of the station. He said that, in essence, he represented the staff at board meetings.

LMcK said such an arrangement doesn't work and presents a conflict of interests. He said, however, that the Sydney station on which FMR was modelled had an external listeners' panel of about five influential people in the community that reported to the board.