

# **THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FINE MUSIC RADIO ASSOCIATION**

Held at Artscape Opera House, Cape Town on Saturday, 20 November 2021

## **AGENDA**

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

### **1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Mark Jennings (MJ) welcomed everyone to the AGM and said that there wasn't an AGM last year in line with ICASA's ruling. He commented on the beautiful roses that Chris Bellingan brought (an annual tradition) and said they contributed to a sense of "slight normality", to which there was a round of applause. MJ Thanked Johann Vos (JV) for all he does for FMR.

Apologies: Chris Nicklin, Francois Smuts, Ida Durie, James Grace.

### **2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 2019 AGM approved.

### **3) MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing new added to agenda.

### **4) CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – JOHANN VOS**

I'd like to dedicate the meeting and everything we do and talk about to the listeners and to the staff and presenters. When lockdown was announced in March 2020, within a few weeks we lost almost all our advertising revenue, and we suddenly realised that something has happened that could close down the station. Through Mark's leadership and our excellent presenters, our listeners came to the rescue. When Brian talks about finances, he will confirm that the membership income annually was 15% and suddenly we had to rely on our listeners to give us 100% and it happened. Since the demise of Classic FM, we are the last FM classical music station in Africa. Fine Music Radio is a Non-Profit Company, but we almost became a Non-Income company! We need 460k a month to survive, we have 13 permanent employees, they don't earn a massive or market-related salary, but we cannot do

without them. We need and rely on the loyalty and support of every single presenter and volunteer, of which they are about 80 people. We need our staff, we need our presenters, we need our listeners. In my career, I have prepared many wills and I'm grateful for people leaving money to FMR in their wills.

As far as Covid is concerned, we are a small and law abiding organisation, we do what we have to do, we are part of Artscape, we are their tenants, should they decide that access to Artscape will be granted only to people who are vaccinated, we will respect what we have to do in that capacity.

We reach out to the community all the time! JV mentioned the various campaigns and activations and said that we would include a more detailed report in the minutes as below:

## **FMR's FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS**

**EVERY SCHOOL CHILD DESERVES SCHOOL SHOES:** At the end of 2019 Fine Music Radio and Inkwenkwezi Foundation launched our second campaign to purchase new school shoes for learners. A big thanks, as always, to our generous listeners who contributed R30 000, which translated into 214 pairs of new school shoes.

**CPO MUSIC TOTS:** Fine Music Radio has teamed up with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra so that children, aged from three to six, can enjoy music lessons for a year. This campaign is currently on air. We started out asking for R24 000, due to the generosity of listeners sponsors, we closed on R122,601.

**PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGNS:** We have offered free adverts to NGO's, in order to help them survive these tough times. This year alone, we have flighted a free advert once a month. PSA's over the last two years included: Meals on Wheels, DARG, St Joseph's Home, Mandela Day, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Rare Diseases South Africa, Wynberg Rotary Club, the Lapalala Wilderness School, the YMCA Cape Town: Tygerberg Children's Trust, The Sunflower Fund and the Hout Bay Music Project.

## **OUTSIDE BROADCASTS**

- August 2021: The 12th Annual Fine Music Radio Bursary Trust Awards took place at the Baxter Concert Hall in August. In order to comply with the limits on the number of people allowed in an indoor venue, we held the jazz and classical awards in two sections over two days with no audience members.
- August to September 2021: The Johann Vos Music Competition took place on 31 August and 1 September at Bellville High School, in collaboration with the Hugo Lambrechts Music Trust. This is the 30th year that the competition has been sponsored by Johann Vos.

## **ACTIVATIONS:**

- Due to the pandemic we had to curtail our social activations. However, in September 2020 Fine Music Radio teamed up with Plastics SA for our 6th Annual Coastal Clean-up at Hout Bay Beach.
- We recorded two Book Choice Teen podcasts with learners from Herzlia High School and Gardens Commercial High. The respective authors, Michael Williams and Nadea Davids, were able to join us remotely.

## PROGRAMMING AND AWARDS

- As of 1 March 2020, we launched a new business show called the *BizNews Power Hour*.
- In May 2020 a unique programme was created to feature the work of local musicians called *Play ON!* This has been a great success.
- In 2020 Fine Music Radio was nominated in the South African Radio Awards, under the category of Night-Time Show, for two of our Live Concert Date at 8 Symphony Concerts from the Cape Town City Hall. We had won this award in 2019.
- In 2021 we were nominated for these three awards the South African Radio Awards. Drama Programme: *Out of the Shadows - The Peace Trees of Hiroshima* - Written by Karien Polley and directed by Nigel Vermaas | Night-Time Show: *The Love Doctor* with Mehboob Bawa | Podcast: *Under the Kilt* with Christine Weir

JV paid tribute to FMR colleagues who had passed away:

Ruth Allsopp (retired presenter) – November 2021

Vic Scanlon-Hall (presenter) – June 2021

Wilma Meanley (retired compiler) – June 2021

Dimmitrios Giannakis (loyal advertiser and musician) January 2021

Henry Holloway (retired presenter) – December 2020

Dr John Carter (retired presenter) – January 2020

Michel Woolfson (retired presenter) – January 2020

## 5) PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIALS – BRIAN GARDNER

Brian Gardner (BG) said: We are very privileged when we consider the position of FMR.

The financial statement has been checked by auditors and is all above board.

Page 8 gives the statement of the financial position, the total assets have gone up from 3.7 million to 4.1 million. We have two groups of people to thank:

First of all the people who work here and do all that is necessary to keep it going.

The other group is the people outside who contribute so much money to keep FMR going.

In cash alone we have 2.5 million, this is remarkable, it's a result of the people who serve FMR and those outside.

On page 21 you will see our operating expenses are quite high, but that's because everything is more expensive, but having a look at what we spent money on, there are two things that are significant:

The production costs have gone up by another 100 000, and transmitter fees have gone up from 600 000 to 700 000.

Looking at the statement of financial performance: Advertising dropped from 3.2 to 2.5 million, so there has been a lot of work to keep advertisers advertising.

Subscriptions are 600 000 and 700 000, the donations, this year 1.5 million, that to me is remarkable. This is one of the main reasons we were able to continue. BG asked if anyone had questions, there were none and he concluded by thanking everyone.

## **6) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS – JOHANN VOS**

JV: In terms of the MOI (Memorandum of Incorporation) – we can have eight directors and we are not allowed to have fewer than three. Every year, a third of directors who have been directors for longest must resign, this year it's Chris Nicklin and Francois Smuts who are both available to be re-elected. My proposal is that they are re-elected. (This proposal was accepted.) There is one nomination, of a gentleman called Kent Stephens, we have his CV and I think he will make a significant contribution, he is a classical music man, my suggestion is we welcome Mr Stephens as director number nine. (This proposal was accepted.)

## **7) OPEN DISCUSSION**

Jon Geidt, asked about our situation as tenants of Artscape.

JV: Artscape has always been very good to us, and the position plays a significant role as far as exposure is concerned, Mark has a good relationship with them, we are good to them and they good to us. There is nothing to fear.

MJ: We just signed a new lease, which secures our tenancy for another 10 years

Sheila Chisholm asked about the rental. MJ said it's a trade exchange our ratio is 3:1 in their favour.

There were no further questions, JV thanked everyone for their attendance and said he looked forward to seeing them again at our next meeting.