**MINUTES**

The General Assembly of the 18th International Congress of Agricultural Museums

Date: Friday, 12 May 2017

Location: Assembly Hall, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia

17:30 Meeting called to order by President, Ms. Merli Sild (Piret Hion); designated Kerry-Leigh Burchill as official chair of meeting. Burchill welcomed General Assembly (AIMA members).

Holders of Proxy: 45 present or represented out of 57 members – quorum confirmed. List of proxies with holders of proxies recorded at registration desk. Voting required to affirm reports (3 options: agree, disagree, abstain).

Burchill thanked Sild and her staff for hosting the congress. AIMA members affirmed.

Approval of 2014 General Assembly Minutes (Burchill): Reviewed by General Assembly in 2015; summary in French and English required; published on AIMA website and in *Journal Officiel de la République française*. Approved 45 votes (unanimous).

Report of President Sild read by Hion. 2014 Congress introduced Estonia as host of 18th Congress (2017 May). June 2015 AIMA president and secretary general participated in ICOM as affiliate member and represented AIMA at international expositions to maintain AIMA visibility in international museum community. ICOM minutes documented AIMA’s participation and mission (publication in Newsletter)

Report of Executive Secretary (Dr. Cozette Griffin-Kremer). Outgoing secretary general report read and approved by Exec Com. Members approved the report for publication in the newsletter and filling in the archive.

Report of Treasurer (Mr. Pierre Del Porto), 2014-2015-2016. Expenses include filing fees for legal register (*Journal Officiel de la République française*), change of official address to COMPA, opened bank account; launched PayPal buttons on website for dues, and this requires a commission fee to PayPal. Revenue includes dues 2530.75 Euros TOTAL: 2276. 04 Euros. Approved 45 votes (unanimous). Del Porto requested those paying with wire transfer confirm payment with Secretary and Treasurer. Directions will appear in Newsletter. Give “quitus” (vote of confidence) in Del Porto. Approved 45 votes (unanimous). Audit Committee (independent of Treasurer); members Petre, Watson, Sheridan reviewed financial report in March 2017 (ending Dec. 31, 2016). Figures compliant with budget. Burchill informed the membership that Del Porto will start using a different branch of the same banking institution. Approved 45 votes (unanimous).

Membership (Mr. Del Porto): table of numbers of members, presented for information to members.

AIMA Budget, Provisional, 2017-2020 (Mr. Del Porto): Expenses: office supplies; translation fees (Newsletter and Internet); website fees and expansion; PayPal commission TOTAL: 1300 Euro. Revenue: membership increase of 5-10 as goal. No fee increase to keep AIMA an affordable organization; fees remain 10 Euros (Individual); 40 Euros (Institution). 70 members for 1300 Euros. Approved 45 votes (unanimous). Membership fees approved as existing. Approved 45 votes (unanimous).

Statutes (Burchill / Reid): Discussion of proposed changes to Statutes, discussed at three Executive Committee meetings. Revisions/Clarifications: ICOM ethics; member benefits with institutional vote of 3 rather than 1; clarify role of executive committee officers and advisors. The Executive Committee requests that the AIMA members take time to review and convey their opinions (by July 31); the Executive Committee will review and approve changes (2018 Exec Com meeting). 45 approvals (Unanimous).

Nominees for AIMA Executive Committee (Secretary, Dr. Griffin-Kremer presiding; Burchill excused herself; Hughes excused herself). President: Douglas; First VP: Hughes; Second VP: Reid; Treasurer: Del Porto; General Secretary: Burchill; Counselors: Sild, Griffin-Kremer, Baatz (Kropp, alternate), Sarkar, Horio, Ignatowicz, Petre (Auditing Committee), Sosič (Auditing Committee), Watson (Auditing Committee). Discussion about meaning of the term “alternate” and the purpose of the designation. 43 votes (unanimous).

Location of CIMA 19 (2020) (Hughes): Museum of English Rural Life, Reading, England, shared a 3 minute film on “Our Country Lives,” a new exhibit in the rural museum, situated on the University of Reading campus in the city of Reading. Executive Committee unanimously recommends acceptance. 2023 congress proposals welcomed at any time. Exec Com is exploring India.

Business from the Floor: Del Porto reported that the signatures on the bank account include: Exec Com President, Treasurer, Executive Sec., and one Independent Observer (Griffin-Kremer 2017). Signers must physically appear at the bank branch. Approved 45 votes (unanimous).

Adjourn 18:35 Griffin-Kremer moved; Hughes seconded. Unanimous approval.

Photograph of 2017-2020 AIMA Executive Committee and Officers