

Minutes: RDA Council meeting, 12 Jan 2016, 20:30 UTC

Participants: Mark Parsons, Fran Berman, Doris Wedlich, Juan Bicarregui (OAB), Walter Stewart (OAB), Stefanie Kethers (Secretariat, minutes)

Agenda

1. Approve Future Directions document and next steps.
2. Discuss the proposal for Council subcommittees.
3. Roundtable and AOB, including suggested topics for discussion in Tokyo.

Actions

- Mark to inform Council that the participants in today's call have accepted the FD document, with the proviso that it needs a good work plan to be presented at P7, and put the document out to Council, for objection within 2 weeks.
- Mark to work with Secretariat to develop a Future Directions implementation plan for presentation at P7.
- Small group (Mark, Juan, and Stefanie) to develop charters for the suggested subcommittees by early February to be presented at a later Council meeting.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approve [Future Directions document](#) and next steps.

Fran gave some background on the FD document and emphasized the year-long, consultative process and stressed the resulting FD document is meant to be actionable. At this point, Council needs to approve (or not) the document. However, due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting should not make any serious decisions. Instead, the FD document was discussed and consensus reached among the participants.

The participants voted on acceptance of the FD document. Nobody opposed it

ACTION: Mark to inform Council that the participants in today's call have accepted the FD document, with the proviso that it needs a good work plan to be presented at P7, and put the document out to Council, for objection within 2 weeks.

ACTION: Mark to work with Secretariat to develop a Future Directions implementation plan for presentation at P7.

2. Discuss the [proposal for Council subcommittees](#).

Fran gave some background: This emerged after discussions with Ross, John, and is also based on her own experience with other Boards outside of RDA. In other organisations, the real work is often done by subcommittees, who bring items of strategy and importance back to the Board (Council), and a few important items are then discussed within the Board. The proposal for Council is therefore to develop some subcommittees around important topics. Four potential committees were put forth:

Finance, Sustainability, Strategy, and RDA Affairs. As a pilot, Doris has been heading up Finance, helping Mark with the budget for the Foundation, among other things. There have also been discussions about the Sustainability of RDA, and John, Patrick, and Ross have been active in this area. In other organisations, Fran has also experienced a subcommittee on Board affairs, which deals with e.g. recruiting new members, how Board meetings run, etc. In the RDA context, this subcommittee would take on a broader view and deal with RDA affairs more generally – not just Council, but also other bodies, e.g. TAB, OAB. Another suggested subcommittee would deal with Strategy, in particular to make sure the FD document is implemented in a way that is effective.

It may be important for Council co-chairs not to chair these subcommittees. Also, with only 9 Council members, it is impossible to fill all subcommittees, but there are many people wanting to become more involved and active in RDA, but so far, there are limited avenues.

This is especially important as RDA tries to cultivate the next generation of leadership. RDA needs a way of getting people into the organisation, and the subcommittees may be a way to do this.

There was agreement on having subcommittees, especially Finance and Sustainability, and Strategy, as discussed in the previous agenda item. There was a bit of a question about the scope and purpose for the RDA affairs subcommittee and some of the process details. Various options for configuring the subcommittees were discussed.

The general idea of establishing subcommittees was supported.

All subcommittees should have a charter, and a good test for the usefulness of the RDA Affairs subcommittee would be to try and describe its charter – if there is none, this may not be the right time for setting it up.

Doris cautioned not to establish too many activities in parallel, but do it step-by-step.

It was agreed to have a small group draft charters and discuss this in a telecom in February, before P7.

ACTION: Small group (Mark, Juan, and Stefanie) to develop charters for the suggested subcommittees by early February to be presented at a later Council meeting.

3. Roundtable and AOB, including suggested topics for discussion in Tokyo

Fiscal Policies and Procedures document should hopefully be ready for discussion by P7.

Nomination for new Council members: The Nominations Committee received 8 nominations. The Committee will be meeting to prepare the slate of candidates at least 2 weeks prior to P7. The slate will then be announced one week before and again at P7, then put up for election by the membership for two weeks.

The next Council face-to-face meeting after Tokyo will be in Australia, 24-26 May.

Funders Forum: A “save the date message” for Monday (28th of February) afternoon was sent to all relevant people. Some program directors from the e-infrastructure part of the Belmont Forum will also be invited. It will all be very informal. An agenda will be sent out in February.