

Minutes from Committee Meeting of The Danish Society Inc

Date of Meeting:

Venue: Danish House, 6 Rockridge Road, Penrose

Attending: Finn Nielsen, Marion Stewart, Roger Knights, Dawn Nissen, Kurt Marquart, Keld Burlon, Antony Barrett, Kim Basse, Inger Mortensen

Guests: Pam Logan (Editor), Erik Nissen

Apologies: None

Agenda:

1. Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising + Secretary's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Membership
4. Danish House subcommittee
5. Valhalla subcommittee
6. News magazine
7. General business

Meeting Start/Finish: 7.40pm / 10pm

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion/Actions:	Accountable/Due:
1. Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising and secretary's report	<p>The minutes of the meeting held 15 December 2008 had been distributed prior to this meeting.</p> <p><i>Matters arising:</i></p> <p>Inger has tried a number of times to contact Paul Marquart regarding the nomination of Finn to the committee but has been unable to reach him. Finn reported that he has talked with Paul (who has apparently been travelling), and although Paul still doesn't remember signing the nomination form, he's content to leave the matter.</p> <p>Kurt talked about the pdf / excel membership files which he sends regularly to all committee members. He wants each of us to be able to link to these files online via our website which would save constantly sending out new files.</p> <p>Kurt further suggested that minutes could be loaded onto the website in a similar way.</p> <p>Bookings for the Danish House could be on a Google calendar in the same way as the Valhalla bookings.</p> <p>Re open house, Kurt forgot to do it in February so will do November instead. Kurt will open etc for Fastelavn, and Marion will be there, too.</p>	<p>No further action required</p> <p>Kurt to discuss with Lena Burlon how this can be done</p> <p>Inger to contact Lena regarding this</p> <p>Finn to organise (Marion knows how it is done as she set up the Valhalla calendar)</p> <p>Kurt / Marion: Fastelavn 22 Feb Inger: rewrite social timetable</p>

	<p>Re keys / codes, Antony to organise for those who still haven't got them. Also separate codes for every new hirer of hall, so we can always check who has been here exactly when (damages, forgotten windows etc).</p> <p>Karen is happy to continue to maintain and be contact person for History for the Society.</p> <p>Acoustics still mostly a problem when people do not use the equipment properly.</p> <p>A. That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15 December be accepted: 1. Marion 2. Keld Carried</p>	<p>Antony to organise</p> <p>Pam to update list in magazine</p> <p>No action required</p>
<p>2. Treasurer's report</p>	<p>Roger reported that MYOB still isn't sorted. Therefore he doesn't have a reconciliation. Cash just under \$20,000.</p> <p>Armourguard \$300 security call-out for Nilfisk to be billed to Nilfisk.</p> <p><i>Regarding the Charities Commission.</i> Roger distributed copies of two documents to the meeting - one a copy of a letter from the Commission advising that Danish Society does not meet registration requirements; and one outlining "Charitable Purpose".</p> <p>Roger briefly outlined the details:</p> <p>Recommends that he writes a letter advising the Commission that we will reapply (even if we end up not doing it). This has to be done before 12 March.</p> <p>We were told that it would take 8-10 weeks to process the application, but it was lodged in June last year.</p> <p>Roger will look at other societies / organisations to see what they've got in their rules etc which we could use as well.</p> <p>Regarding liquidation - this cannot be distributed to members - this is in our rules already.</p> <p>Even a charitable trust can trade and make money.</p>	<p>Roger to email details when MYOB is in order</p> <p>Everyone to read the two documents and make themselves familiar with what is going on</p> <p>Roger to write letter to the commission</p> <p>Roger to action</p>

	<p>Advantages to becoming a charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No longer a tax-paying entity (at the moment we're making a loss, so we don't anyway) - We have much higher chance of getting grants, support etc from places like the Lottery Commission - "Feel-good" factor - we're a charity, not a business <p>The committee discussed how we need to be careful as not everyone would necessarily regard the above as advantages. Not everyone thinks we're a charity, for instance.</p> <p>Any rule changes required will need to be done at a Special General Meeting. We would need to outline very clearly the implications for our members.</p> <p>Roger reported further that Auckland City Council has changed rules for funding of charitable trusts which isn't looking too good. More details needed.</p> <p><i>Regarding Nilfisk contract.</i> Due for renewal 1 May 2009. There's a lot of empty leases around - we want to make sure they stay. It was suggested that we try to get them to sign up for two years instead of one, and we won't put up the rent. Finn suggested we should write to them already now so there's enough time for possible negotiations etc. Also getting an agreement with them already now might stop them from looking elsewhere.</p> <p>B: That the treasurer's report be accepted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kim 2. Keld <p>Carried</p>	<p>Roger to write letter / discuss with Nilfisk</p>
<p>3. Membership</p>	<p>New members Per and Justine Nielsen (Danish / New Zealand couple) were approved.</p> <p>C: That new members be accepted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marion 2. Keld <p>Carried</p> <p>A membership report had been distributed via email prior to the meeting, however not all committee members had received this.</p> <p>Kurt brought up that the Swedish society should be affiliate instead of Associate. It was agreed that Kurt should go ahead and change this.</p>	<p>Kurt to resend membership report to secretary to file with minutes Kurt to change Swedish society membership status</p>

	<p>The committee discussed the issue of spouses of life members. It was agreed that in the event that a life member dies, the spouse should continue to receive life membership benefits (this currently only affects two couples).</p> <p>The committee also discussed the awarding of life memberships and agreed that we would continue to award these when appropriate. Finn pointed out that they are given in recognition of outstanding efforts and as a reward. We don't want to limit ourselves with regard to who can get them for exactly which efforts. It should continue to be solely at the discretion of the committee, but members can suggest other members for life membership at any time, and the committee will consider it. Just because it's been a long time since we last awarded someone with life membership, doesn't mean that we have forgotten about it.</p> <p>D: That the membership report be accepted: 1. Antony 2. Dawn Carried</p>	
<p>4. Danish House subcommittee</p>	<p>Keld reported that the subcommittee had not had a meeting yet.</p> <p>Various repair jobs are being quoted.</p> <p>We still need to find out whether water leak in hall can be claimed on insurance.</p> <p>A supplier of snaps has been found.</p> <p>Smørrbrødsfest on the 14th March clashes with Working Bee but will go ahead anyway. We will try to make sure we avoid similar clashes further ahead.</p> <p>Regarding fastelavn, Kurt to contact Christina of the Mothers' Group to see what is required on the day.</p> <p>Subcommittee to meet on 25 February. On the agenda will be amongst other items the set-up of a maintenance schedule.</p> <p>E: That the Danish House subcommittee report be accepted: 1. Marion 2. Kim</p>	<p>Kurt to contact Christina</p> <p>Subcommittee members to meet 25 February</p>

<p>5. Valhalla Subcommittee</p>	<p>Valhalla report was distributed prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Marion reported that bookings are very healthy. There was no income in October due to kitchen renovations, yet we have made just as much as last year.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the subject of setting up tents on Valhalla grounds. Marion reported that we currently only allow this for special occasions such as a 40th birthday or similar. Currently we are not set up to run a camp ground - maybe this could be relevant sometime in the future, but not at present.</p> <p>The committee went into "committee only" from 8.55pm to 9.20pm. Separate document covering this distributed to committee members.</p> <p>Marion suggested that a letter to Warrick Rhodes regarding the complaints that we have over the tar-sealing of the road which his company did a couple years ago, should come from the secretary. She has already written a draft which had been distributed to committee members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>We have not yet received a quote on the drainage but that should come.</p> <p>Marion could also report that the carpet in the dining area and one of the fridges had been accidentally damaged (possibly ruined) during a clean-up.</p> <p>There was a discussion around who can provide us with expert advise on our fresh water situation at Valhalla. Roger knows someone, Benny Larsen, who had quoted a price of \$2-3000 which apparently is a decent price for doing an analysis.</p> <p>On the other hand, there's apparently also another person, Jes Mikkelsen who is willing to do it for free.</p> <p>It was agreed we should try to get both of them to do a site visit and come back to us with quotes / ideas.</p> <p>Marion told about an incident where someone had turned the water off, and Erik told about another incident involving vandalism.</p> <p>F: That the Valhalla report be accepted: 1. Kim 2. Keld Carried</p>	<p>No action required</p> <p>Inger to write letter Warrick Rhodes</p> <p>Roger to contact Benny Larsen</p> <p>Who knew about Jes Mikkelsen? Please contact him to see if he can do a site visit as well.</p>

6. News magazine	A photo of the committee members was taken for the magazine	
7. General business	None	

Next meeting: 7 March 2009

Meeting Host: Kim