

Commemorations Committee/Fochoiste na gCuimhneachan

Minutes of meeting held on 16th September 2015, 2pm in Council Chamber, City Hall

Councillors/Members Present

Cllr Vincent Jackson (Chair)
Cllr Nial Ring
Cllr Cieran Perry
Cllr John Lyons
Cllr Jim O'Callaghan

Officials Present

Margaret Hayes, City Librarian
Ray Yeates, Arts Officer
Liz Coman, Arts Office
Coilin O'Reilly, CRA
Paula Ebbs, CRA
Ursula Donnellan, Events
Gaye McClelland, CRA
Tara Doyle, Libraries
Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian
Ruairi O Cuiv, Public Art Manager

- 1. Minutes of meeting of 7th July 2015.** The minutes were approved.
- 2. Apologies** – Brendan Kenny (ACE), Alison King, Simon O'Connor, Cllr Sean Haughey, Cllr Pat McCartan, Cllr Mícheál Mac Donncha, Willie White.
- 3. Correspondence** - None
- 4. Public consultations – update** - B. Teeling reported that the final 1916 Rising consultation workshop took place in Donnycarney Community and Youth Centre on Tuesday 21st July with Minister Aodhán O Riordán in attendance and with John Concannon and Commandant Stephen MacEoin attending from the Ireland 2016 Project Team. Around fifty people attended including several 1916 Rising relatives, councillors and DCC community development officers.
- 5. Dublin Festival of History 2015** – B. Teeling highlighted some of the events at the upcoming Dublin Festival of History including a round table discussion with a group of historians on “Commemorating 1916” and various 1916 events in the city’s branch libraries. The 2015 programme also includes a Family and Children’s Programme for the first time.
- 6. My Area in 1916** – T. Doyle reported that the historian Brian Hughes resigned from the project (appointed to a university post in the UK). Historian Donal Fallon has accepted the position and is due to start during October. (Donal is the author of *Come Here to me blog* and has published a book on Nelson’s Pillar and is about to publish a biography of John MacBride.) B. Teeling suggested that Donal could speak to the Commemorations Committee at a future date.

- 7. DCC 1916 Commemorations programme** – B. Teeling reported that the Ireland 2016 Project Team is co-ordinating the initial launch of all the local authority programmes for **8th October** and an t-Árdmheara will attend. Each local authority programme will use the same template and Ireland 2016 will compile the printed programmes (including Irish translation) and will print “launch” copies. They are also planning individual LA launches and the official DCC launch will take place sometime after 8th October, date TBC. Cllr Ring asked if local projects can be included in this and B. Teeling said they can be listed on the DCC website as the entire programme will be published online. The DCC programme includes *The GPO Garrison Easter 1916: a biographical dictionary* by Jimmy Wren (in partnership with Geography Publications and the GAA) which is due to be launched in October 2016 (includes a foreword by an t-Árdmheara). The Central Area DCC supported this book with €7,000.
- 8. 1916 Commemoration Fund for communities.** Cllr Perry expressed his unhappiness that the process for assessing the grants changed unilaterally with a decision made to direct the grant assessment to the Community Development officers. He believed that the Committee had decided that the elected representatives would play the key role in the process. He emphasised that the money is for 2015 and that the grants are not just of small amounts; allocation of small amounts to all may be detrimental to bigger projects and quality projects should be accommodated. Cllr Ring agreed with Cllr Perry. Cllr O’Callaghan agreed in general with the recommendations for South East area and noted that in the future more councillor involvement may be worthwhile.

B. Teeling reported that it was difficult to get through all the applications and therefore the expertise of the Community Development Offices was drawn upon to assess the applications. He will take the comments on board and apologised if the process had not worked out as expected. The intention always was that the Commemorations Committee would make the final decisions; the Community Development Officers decisions are only recommendations. The Chairman suggested that members could highlight any projects which they feel should get more funding and we can go to ACE with these suggestions. It was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee to review the recommendations would be arranged. Members should let T. Doyle know of any projects which they feel have not been adequately funded. Cllr Lyons noted that the recommendations from the North Central area were not available at the meeting.

9. A.O.B.

- a. C. O’Reilly reported that the Pete St. John project now encompasses a suite of six songs. The website and poster are being developed and the project will be launched in City Hall on 6th October with a media launch and evening concert. IMRO may become a partner in the project and this is being examined. Costs are mainly in kind.
- b. B. Teeling reported on a decision by the Protocol Committee to re-name the Member’s Room in honour of Cllr Richard O’Carroll and the unveiling of a plaque in 2016. The decision was endorsed by the members. The suggested wording of the plaque was circulated. Cllr O’Callaghan noted that Richard O’Carroll’s political party affiliation is included on the plaque while no others are and suggested this should be removed or all political party affiliations included. B. Teeling undertook to refer back to the Protocol Committee.

- c. Cllr Ring acknowledged that the Tom Clarke Memorial Committee have been given free use of City Hall for the Tom Clarke Seminar in October.
- d. Cllr Ring raised the issue of 1916 commemorative banners on sites around the city (other than just O'Connell St) and particularly on gateway points to the city. B. Teeling suggested that the J C Decaux sites could be used and he will have a report on this at the next meeting.
- e. Cllr Ring suggested that the Commemorations Committee be comprised of the core group of councillors who have been attending all the meetings rather than the general, open membership it now has.
- f. M. Hayes reported on a one-day seminar on 17th November on "Sources for 1916 Rising at Dublin City Library and Archive".

10. Next Meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 21st October at 2.00pm.