

Hong Kong Water Sports Council

Minutes of the 13th Executive Committee held on 13th December 2017 at 8:30 am
in the Bistro, RHKYC

Present

Raymond Ma Siu Wing	(RM)	Chairman
Johnnie C K Chan	(JC)	Vice-Chairman
Mike Tanner	(MT)	Vice-Chairman
MK Lau	(MK)	Honorary Executive Director
Mike Arnold	(MA)	Board Secretary
Ron Yeung	(RY)	Company Secretary
Chloe Lam	(CL)	Assistant to TW

Absent with apologies

Terence Wan	(TW)	Hon Treasurer
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Action

1.0 Confirmation of Agenda

1.1 The proposed agenda was confirmed without amendment.

2.0 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting held on 8th November 2017

2.1 The Minutes were confirmed without amendment.

3.0 Matters Arising from 12th Meeting

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| 3.1 | Para 3.1 Application to IRD for charitable status: MA advised that the draft of the proposed trust document prepared by Vitus Leung required some further refinement. He agreed to look at putting forward his suggestions when he was back again in Hong Kong in January. | MA |
| 3.2 | Para 3.2 Change of bank signatories: CL confirmed that HSBC appeared to have misplaced the original signed resolution and it would be necessary to provide the bank with a new signed original. | MA |
| 3.3 | Para 3.3 Change of HSBC email notifications: CL advised that she had not yet received anything. MT advised that following his submission of the required documents to HSBC, he expected that the bank would take some two to three weeks more to redirect emails. MT asked CL to let him know when she received something. | CL |
| 3.4 | Para 3.5 Payment of annual subscriptions by Associations: MA advised that the Board would have to be asked to approve the reinstatement of TriHK as a Member if it only paid the subscription for | MA |

2017/18 as this required an interpretation of the Articles, which only the Board could do. The Committee noted that the next Board meeting would be held in January 2018.

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| 3.5 | Para 3.6 Update on Kai Tak Fire Station site – East Kai Tak Water Sports Centre (EKTWSC): MA reported that Ian Brownlee had submitted the re-revised MTIA to the Marine Department. Also Ian Brownlee would be attending a meeting at the offices of EKEO the following morning (14 December) with the DLO, HyD, LCSD, TD and other departments to discuss amongst other issues providing vehicular access to the site. MT said that he would contact Ian Brownlee about attending the meeting. | MT |
| 3.6 | Para 3.7 HKWSC website: MA reported that he continued to work slowly on the Chinese version of the website. | MA |
| 3.7 | Para 3.8 Strategy for involving the Government in the Project Steering Committee for the permanent Kai Tak Water Sports Park: MA explained what had taken place at the Town Planning Board meeting on 6 December 2017, as set out in Ian Brownlee’s email to the Chairman of 7 December 2017, a copy of which is annexed to these minutes. The Committee noted the current situation. | All |
| 3.8 | Para 3.9 Representation of HKWSC on LVAC: MT noted that he had previously advised that he would draft a letter to Marine Department to say that the HKWSC was not seeking to become a permanent member of the LVAC, but would ask to be involved when matters relating to water sports were raised. | MT |
| 3.9 | Para 3.10 Update on Tseung Kwan O site: MA noted that HAB had not as they had previously stated issued any reply in November to the letter sent to Linda Law on 15 September. MT reported that he, Joachim Isler and Peter Weily of Advisian had met with Trisha Leahy of the HKSI on 9 November 2017 to discuss whether and if so how it might be possible to accommodate the windsurfing requirements into the TKO site. Advisian considered that it might be possible to accommodate the HKSI’s requirements if two-storey rather than single-storey buildings were permitted. Given the greater height of the area behind the site, this might be possible. Advisian had said that they would look further at this idea, but had not yet come forward with any proposals. MT said that he would follow up with Advisian. | MT |
| 3.10 | Para 3.11 Proposed event to celebrate the HKSAR 20th Anniversary – Volvo Ocean Race: MT advised that he had met with the President of the HKSF (Tong Yui-shing) to explain the situation. He had also spoken to Joachim Isler, who had advised him to speak to Charlie Manzoni (VP of the HKSF), because the latter was coordinating | All |

matters related to the Volvo event. It had been agreed with the HKSF that there would be no “on the water” events staged by the HKWSC or its non-sailing NSAs. However, the NSAs were welcome to take up sites/tents within the event village at Kai Tak to organise activities that would promote their sports. MK reported that following the last Committee meeting he had informed all the NSAs about the opportunity to participate in the Volvo Race event. The Committee agreed that the HKWSC should not take on a central coordinating role, but simply leave each of the NSAs to decide if they wished to participate and, if so, in what manner.

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| 3.11 | Para 3.12 Funding for Creation of HKWSC Secretariat: As the HKJC would only agree to fund such requests if they were project based, MT, MA and MK had agreed to meet to look at drawing up an activities plan to develop a community-based project lasting, say, 3-5 years that would include programmes for the disabled, youth and the elderly. Part of the plan would include identifying necessary supporting staff. The Committee noted that the meeting would now need to be postponed until after the new year. | MT
MA
MK |
| 3.12 | Para 3.13 Proposed STT for the Wanchai Basin: On the letter sent to the CE on 15 September, MA reported that the HFC (which had been copied the letter to the CE) was still in the process of coordinating a draft reply, which the CE had asked to see before it was issued. | All |
| 3.13 | Para 3.15 Relationship with District Councils: JC reported that he, together with RM and MT had held a meeting with the Chairman of Kowloon City District Council, Mr Pun Kwok-wah, on 1 December (unfortunately the DO/Kowloon City had been called away to another meeting and had been unable to also attend). At the meeting the position of the HKWSC on issues like the location of the road in the Kai Tak Runway had been explained. Mr Pun had suggested that the Council approach the chairman of the District Council’s subcommittee responsible for such matters to brief him. The reason for this was that only subcommittees could submit papers to the District Council. JC further reported that he had met Mr Wilson CS Or, the Legislative Councillor for Kowloon East, and had briefed him about the HKWSC situation. Mr Or had said that he was willing to help organise his colleagues to arrange a meeting to assist the Council if this was considered necessary. | All |
| 3.14 | Para 3.16 Dates of Board meetings in 2018: On Joachim Isler’s query about whether there should be more board meetings in 2018, the Committee agreed that the position decided at the last meeting should be mentioned at the next Board meeting. | MA |
| 3.15 | Para 3.17 Celebration of the HKWSC’s 5 th anniversary in 2018 (see | All |

also para 3.16 below): MK reported that he had spoken to Irene Or who had said that she could help organise the anniversary events. She had asked about her duties. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for RM, JC, MT, MK and Ng Kong-wan to hold a dinner meeting with Ms Or to discuss the possible arrangements for the anniversary and the Water Safety Day. [The evening of 10 Jan 2018, at 7:00pm at the RHYC was subsequently agreed with Ms Or.] JC further advised that the owner of the production house that he had mentioned in the last meeting had indicated his willingness to help with any printing related requirements.

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| 3.16 | Para 4.1 Water Safety Day to be held in 2018: MT suggested that the NSAs might each be asked to organise one month of water safety activities following on from the Water Safety Day event on 1 May 2018, the purpose being to strengthen water safety awareness. The Committee agreed. JC further suggested that the NSAs could also take part in the Water Safety Day activities on 1 May 2018. RM considered that LCSD should be approached to obtain the latter's support. The Committee also agreed. | All |
| 3.17 | Para 4.3 HKWSC's endorsement of 2017 ATIR: The Committee noted that details of the 2017 ATIR had been uploaded to the HKWSC's website. [Note: originally under the submenu "Future Events" but now moved to "Past Events".] | |
| 3.18 | Para 5.1 Submission to the Commission on Youth: RM signed the letter to the Commission Chairman and JC arranged for its subsequent issue to the Commission Chairman and other copy addressees. | All |
| 3.19 | Para 6.1 STT in Big Wave Bay for surfers: MT considered that the matter could be left with Paul Zimmerman to decide how to take matters forward. He would, however, send a note to Paul Zimmerman to remind the latter to keep him informed. | MT |

4.0 Any Other Business

- 4.1 There were no other matters.

5.0 Date of Next Meeting

- 5.1 The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 24 January 2018 in the Bistro, RHKYC.

Raymond Ma
Chairman

Ian Brownlee's email of 7 December 2017

Dear Raymond and All,

I thought I would just put my thoughts down regarding yesterdays hearing, especially for those who did not attend or who could not stay for the Q & A session. I have only included those directly related to the HKWSC and have not included John Woo and Paul Zimmerman who also made significant contributions.

The Hon Ma could not attend but his speech was read by his assistant and I think was very helpful.

The collective presentations by all of those who presented in relation to water sports I think gave a very good understanding to the TPB members of what the vision was, the opportunity that existed and the problems with their plan in achieving an international standard venue at Kai Tak. There were other representations relating to building height and air circulation but they took a relatively minor part in the whole hearing. The presentation portion went from 9.00am to about 12.30pm. The Q and A session started after lunch and lasted for about 3 hours.

The Q and A session is perhaps the most important part of the process. Quite a high proportion of members asked questions, and it was clear that they had different perspectives on the proposals. The difficult part is to know what the ones who said nothing were thinking. Some points in summary:-

1. It was not clear if many members had bought into the concept of a Water Arena or that an international standard Water Sports facility was needed to compliment the Kai Tak Stadium. The discussion tended to move towards details.
2. Several members had significant questions as to why CEDD wanted to put the road D3 adjacent to the waterfront where it would block use of that part of the Metro Park in relation to water-sports. The concluding question to CEDD was why not move it away at least 20m so that more space is available for activities along the waterfront. CEDD said they would need to have to look at it - but I'm not convinced they would.
3. One of the members (who is often influential in the decision making) pointed out that the water in Kai Tak channel would always be there and irrespective of what CEDD did there would be boats using the water and that provision should be made to accommodate that
4. Another member who is also a significant voice, had a series of very probing questions of CEDD as to what they were actually doing to facilitate the use of the water for water sports, what ramps and other facilities would be included in their proposals to access the water. CEDD's answer of bollards and anchors was laughed at by a number of members.
5. The main site we wanted for the WSC will be used as a worksite until 2027 and I think members took that into account. In terms of water quality a series of questions may have led to the conclusion that by 2027 the water quality in the western portion of the channel would be improved. CEDD indicated that they expected improvement by that time.
6. There were a series of questions as to why the WSC could not have the centre near the KTTS and they were not aware of the legal restrictions arising from the gazetted use as a typhoon shelter. The site proposed by one member would also be a works area for an indefinite period
7. Members did ask the DPO where an alternative suitable site would be if it wasn't where we proposed it and he could not provide an answer
8. The issue of the existing bridge across the channel and the clearance height came up. While we indicated that boats could go under it and that CEDD had intended to replace it and that we needed

a clear space of 110m, the reply from CEDD was non-committal. While they will look have to look at it they do not have a program to do anything.

9. The Chairlady seemed to like the proposal to incorporate the WSC facilities in the podium of a commercial building on the site we want. She is the former Director of Lands and understands how the requirement for WSC could be included in the lease conditions for the developer to provide.

Unfortunately I think the discussion became quite disjointed just prior to the Chair closing the meeting. There we a couple of important issues we were not able to respond to - how the channel would be used with the bridge in place, what was different with road D3. However, I think there is a realization that there will be water-sports at Kai Tak, the water quality will improve by 2027, Road D3 is in the wrong place but they may see it as being too late to change, the existing bridge will be a constraint on achieving an international standard events centre and there is therefore insufficient reason to reserve a site for a WSC.

The TPB has several more days of hearings for other parts of the Kai Tak Plan. The last day is the 11 January 2018. A series of articles or press items around decision time would be desirable. They will not make a decision until sometime after that. Whatever decision they make will not prevent the use of Kai Tak as a water sports venue, but may constrain what is achievable.

I think it is important to get boats on the water regularly and show what we need, and fill the temporary site up. I will push DLO for the STT. We need to set up a better liaison with CEDD as they incredibly kept mentioning that they did not know a "Responsible Party" to discuss their proposals with. We may be able to get things we need designed into their projects through discussion. We also need to talk to HAB and LCSD about the Design Brief for the Metro Park and get things we need included in their design - including the whitewater course. There needs to be an opportunity to make a representation to the Kowloon City District Council so that they can push our agenda.

There is plenty of time left until 2027 to get a site at the finish line for a high quality WSC.

Regards and thanks,

Ian

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