



# **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PEDESTRIANS**

## **Minutes of the General Assembly**

### **11 September 2013, Munich (Germany)**

Present: (see list at end of minutes)

#### **1. Welcome by the President, Geert van Waeg**

The General Assembly was formally opened by the President who acted as Chair for the meeting and attendees were welcomed and reminded that only voting members were eligible to vote on any decisions to be taken. Tony Armstrong agreed to take minutes of the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting, IFP General Assembly 2012, Mexico City**

The minutes were agreed without comment.

#### **3. IFP vision and mission statements**

In August 2012, an Executive Summit was convened to discuss the future of the IFP. In attendance were Geert van Waeg, Dieter Schwab, Mario Alves and Christian Thomas (Secretary). They were joined by skype/phone at times by Jim Walker, Ole Thorson, Ellen Vanderslice and Tony Armstrong. The purpose of the summit was to look at the vision and mission of the organisation, and explore what the IFP's priorities are and what members wish to get out of the organisation. Draft documents had been developed as a result of this work.

The President introduced the draft vision document and asked for comments.

#### **VISION:**

**A world that is inviting, safe and comfortable for all to walk.**

Attendees were happy with the proposed wording, following confirmation that the vision was inclusive and included wheelchair users in the definition of pedestrians.

The President introduced the draft mission document and asked for comments.

## **MISSION**

**Walking is more than a natural right. Walking is a legitimate use of public space and people should be supported and encouraged to choose to walk. Being an essential part of sustainable mobility, walking improves health and livability of communities.**

**IFP will increase the awareness about walking through:**

- **facilitating exchange of experience and expertise between members worldwide,**
- **formulating policy statements based on input from members,**
- **inspiring/engaging grass roots capacity building**
- **stimulating local, national and international initiatives**
- **being the voice of the pedestrians within international organizations**

A general discussion followed which considered the following key points and amendments:

- The importance of the representational role of the IFP for pedestrians was highlighted
- The wording of the phrase “walking more than a natural right” was considered to be confusing. The meaning of this phrase was supposed to mean that not only was walking a natural right, but it was also about so much more. The wording should be adapted to reflect this
- Although supporting grassroots support in different countries was considered an accurate statement in the mission statement, there was a discussion about the extent IFP should also support professionals. It was agreed that IFP should focus on supporting community and grassroots organisations as other organisations such as Walk 21 and national organisations were already working with professionals. However, there were unanswered questions about how IFP could practically support these community organisations which the Executive could consider further
- Depending on the later discussion on whether alternative charitable or official status should be sought for the IFP, the wording of the mission may need to be adapted to meet particular requirements set by national or international regulatory bodies. It was agreed that this would be considered if required at a later date and depending on circumstances
- Partnerships with other similar or interested organisations in cooperating generally and/or sharing and exchanging information was not sufficiently covered in the existing wording. It was agreed that this intention should come through and the detail of the wording in the last bullet point would be amended, changing “within”.

The meeting agreed the vision and mission statements subject to the revisions outlined above.

#### **4. Elections**

As part of the Executive summit, current members had been checked and it was proposed that the Board membership should be refreshed, with a number of resignations and the need for new members to join.

The following Board members had indicated their intention to resign from the Board:

- Celia Wade-Brown (NZ)
- Terence Bendixson (UK)
- Stefan van der Spek (Netherlands Assoc starting up next month and will be applying for IFP membership- but Stefan not personally involved)
- Amy Aeron-Thomas (UK)

The meeting took note of the resignations and expressed gratitude for their contribution

All other existing Board members had indicated that they would be willing to continue to serve.

In addition, nominations were requested for new members to join the Board and were received from:

- Andy Smith (NZ)
- Jacky Kennedy (Canada)
- Ben Rossiter (Australia)

All three were elected unanimously

## **5. Legal structures of the IFP**

The meeting considered the current and potential future legal and regulatory arrangements for the IFP. The current arrangements were that the IFP was a Swiss NGO, and as such came under a very informal and relaxed regulatory framework. This was largely a pragmatic arrangement reflecting that Christian as IFP Secretary was also based in Switzerland and knew the Swiss regulatory regime. However, it was considered that this framework may not be fit for purpose in the future, particularly as the IFP had experienced problems in attracting potential supporters and funders and if we were to grow we may need a more robust legal basis. In addition, Christian would be retiring at the General Assembly in 2014.

One potential area that could be explored were more formal links with the Federation of European Pedestrian Associations (FEPA) which was a registered charity registered in Belgium and had a strong legal basis. However, FEPA is not as active as the IFP, and one proposal being considered by the Executive Board that they were keen to have strongly considered would be to merge the two organisations, under one legal basis.

In discussion, Tom Dhollander, President of FEPA said that his experience was that it had been very difficult to get members to provide support and time, even through there were opportunities for funding and achieving greater impact. He felt that there was a strong case for merging the two organisations, particularly as many of the active member organisations were similar to both FEPA and IFP.

A number of people made comments about the different geographical coverage of the two organisations and how to ensure that such a proposal did not cut off potential areas of funding e.g. from the European Union by subsuming a European body into an international body. It was pointed out that there must be examples of other sectors which would have faced these issues and perhaps some further research could be undertaken. In summary, there was broad consensus that- providing there were no negative issues uncovered through further research- we should move towards a merger, and that a European “chapter” or similar might be established under the overall authority of the IFP. A number

of people commented that future planning needed to be realistic in terms of time and support available from all national members, but that the Executive should undertake more work on both possible merger and establishing a more sustainable legal status. The Executive would develop any more formal proposals to be agreed by the next General Assembly

## **6. Report from the President- Activities during 2012**

Ole was still active in the OECD International Transport Forum (ITF) and had attended the meeting in Leipzig. He had reported that this process is going slowly with the introduction of pedestrian thinking on the international scheme, but he had noticed some progress in understanding. Ole had spoken to Jose Viegas, Secretary General of ITP and had raised the possibility of asking for a side conference on pedestrian issues in 2014 in Leipzig, if we could assist in getting people to attend.

The meeting discussed whether to prioritise this idea through IFP. Bronwen Thornton suggested from her experience of dealing with the ITF that this shouldn't be a priority for limited IFP resources. We were a small voice compared to many other transport sectors and previous engagement had limited impact or traction from them- she was unsure that we would achieve value from pursuing the side conference idea and suggested keeping the relationship warm but not committing resources. The President would continue to consider whether this would be something worth pursuing.

Christian had considered the process for the UN-ECE working party on road safety (WP1) to be very clumsy in recent years, and that without significant input, topics that could improve pedestrian safety were overlooked. However, there were a number of areas that could be worthwhile in looking at. It was agreed that the Executive Board would look at ideas and how/if to influence through WP1.

Through the WHO Road Safety Collaboration, the pedestrian safety manual had been published, with input from Geert, Bronwen and Mario. It was important that the tone was right- to see pedestrians as part of the solution, not just the problem. The manual targets low and medium income countries.

The second UN road safety week was held 6-12 May 2013 and focused on pedestrian safety. A number of national member organisations took part in this, although IFP didn't specifically take a lead. Members were active in Portugal, Austria, US, UK, New Zealand and Italy.

The General Assembly noted the President's report.

## **7. IFP communications activity**

Mario provided an update on his activities to improve the communications of the IFP following the Executive Summit, linked to the newly developed mission. The following points and updates were made:

- It was recognised that the exchange of information between members was very important, and a survey was planned to ask members what they would value from the IFP in terms of communications support.

- Part of IFP's function could be to facilitate materials that each member has available in order to support each other. It would be helpful for members to identify what they had available to meet this need.
- Mario had updated and developed the IFP social media presence, particularly on facebook. Ben Rossiter said that he had been pleased to notice this improved presence and congratulated Mario on his work.
- Mario was keen to introduce a newsletter to members, and would be looking at this further. As part of this, he would be considering using existing channels of communications such as ped net

In discussion, it was felt that there was a high level of support for continuing to hold IFP meetings as part of Walk 21, but that a stronger focus on supporting advocacy should be explored and also whether it would be possible to arrange a pre-conference workshop for IFP members as time constraints were always an issue when holding the general assembly in the evening of one of the conference days more generally. There was strong support for the Executive Board to explore these two ideas with Walk 21.

Andy fed back that he was very pleased with Living End Road materials and the IFP website resources. He had seen signs in Munich and said that this had been a key IFP success. Tom also outlined the successes of the project in Belgium and highlighted how well this was going with more uptake and support.

One proposal that was suggested was whether there were opportunities to create or support a World Walking Week. Although time was running short, members highlighted differing opinions on whether this might be an effective priority for resources, but Bronwen suggested that the Executive Board talk to Gil Pensacola who was pulling together ideas on an international walking advocacy day.

Meeting ended.

Living Streets Aotearoa (New Zealand)  
Federazione Camminacità / Associazione per i Diritti dei Pedoni di  
Roma  
Rue de l'Avenir  
Voetgangersbeweging vzw / FEPA  
Green Communities Canada/ Canada Walks

Living Streets (UK)  
Fussverkehr Schweiz  
Victoria Walks  
FUSS e.V. - Fachverband Fußgängerverkehr Deutschland  
Dansk Fodgaenger Forbund (Denmark)  
Peatonos de Sevilla

Urban Mobility Research  
WALK21  
SafeKids  
walk-space.at - Austrian Pedestrian Organisation  
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