

West Ham United Supporters' Trust

Board Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: 30/8/2023

Location: Virtual by Zoom

Present: - Nick Drane, Richard Elliot, Kevin Hind, Mark Inskipp; Terry Reynolds, Sue Watson, Chris Wheal

Apologies: Rachel McFetridge

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and matters arising

Minutes Board Meeting 12/6/2023 –. Minutes agreed as true record of said meeting.

Document will be shared with our members via website..

Matters arising partly covered by agenda items. Other items:- FSA NC position applied for. Didn't succeed came 2nd out of 4 applicants.

DFO interview has taken place and has been shared.

Scheme of delegation –KH/CW some initial views shared. Agreed to continue to work on this.

3. Fan Engagement Plan and ISC motions

KH reminded the meeting of the comparative document he had sent to the board. This compared WHUST's consultation document and the MOU highlighting same statements, where similar statements and where different. This could help WHUST define its negotiating position.

During following discussion points raised include:-

- FAB established by club not supporters
- Supporters on the FAB- who is the 'gatekeeper' for these groups? Should they be FSA affiliates?

- Unique topic – how this relates to structured dialogue?
- Election process mentioned
- The list of mandatory consultation items
- Importance of having a deputy for meeting attendance
- Subcommittees should be of relevant people from the groups
- Confidentiality, as written on the MOU, needs clarification.
- WHUST consultation document- interested in ISC view. It may be we need a separate meeting to clarify our negotiation position. The importance of ISC input to WHUST document reiterated as our negotiating position. The value of a sub-group consisting of ISC members and WHUST members to look at our consultation document and agree a negotiating position; raised. The current negotiation position of the ISC re the move to a FAB was shared.
- The PL code of conduct and reporting system as addition to FAB paperwork.

MI informed the meeting a number of clubs have recently published their Fan Engagement Plans, the example of Man City was given though their FEP is 'woolly'. MI suggested might be worth looking at others for good points.

ISC Motions

SW read both motions to the meeting. Both motions were proposed by ISC members.

A full discussion around merits of both motions followed. Points discussed included not knowing how the FAB will develop, importance of working with those on ISC to improve things for supporters and implications of both motions.

Following the discussion it was agreed to support the second motion ONLY with the following addition:- and will inform further negotiation with the club regarding the detail of the MOU. This was agreed unanimously.

- **WHUST to offer support to ISC in moving from ISC to FAB – KH/ND agreed to support.**
- **SW to support second motion with the addition from WHUST board**

4. Feedback re 6foot2

CW feedback that the meeting, supported by the FSA has taken place and the issue is closed.

CW also brought up the FSA funding available to an EDI based joint event. MI suggested a joint history and heritage based event. TR expressed he is happy to have the event he has been working on as a joint venture.

Responsibility

- **CW to contact AP re joint EDI event.**
- **TR to work with AP to progress this.**

5. Ensuring Diversity

TR outlined the diversity meeting (minutes provided with paperwork for this meeting) He informed the meeting a key point was WHU supporters not being clear what WHUST stands for. He has spoken to REACH of Spurs, for advice re improving diversity across WHUST.

TR brought up a further point from the diversity meeting- co-opting members onto the board to improve our diversity and improve the range of views. It was agreed we need to be clear what is expected from any co-opted members. After further discussions around what expectations would look like in relation to board membership and voting rights, linked to our articles of association; it was agreed any co-optee would not have voting rights but would help us as an organisation in an 'advisory' capacity. It was agreed to approach Apu Vyas (Inclusive Irons) and Robina Ahmed and offer both a co-opted position on WHUST board.

Responsibility

- **SW to approach AV and RA to offer co-opted position on WHUST board.**
- **TR to call Diversity meeting to look at next steps**

6. Communication/Newsletters

MI informed the meeting he feels a newsletter should go out to members every month. This was supported by several board members. It was agreed the Media and Comms group to meet to progress this.

Responsibility-

- **CW to call a Media and Comms meeting**

7. Membership

A brief discussion around a 'manifesto' linked to growing membership followed.

Responsibility-

- **RE to call a membership sub-committee meeting**
- **SW to share MUST manifesto with board.**

8. AOB

A confidential item was discussed.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be **19/9/23 6:30pm.**
Minute taker **Rachel**
Meeting closed 20.09pm