

# Mistra Urban Futures

## Minutes

### Extra Board Meeting No. 28

3 May 2018

Phone

#### Participants:

Anna Johansson (Chair)  
Benjamin Bradlow  
Caroline Wanjiku Kihato  
Carl Mossfeldt  
John Robinson  
Thomas Elmqvist

#### Ex officio:

Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, Sida  
Mats Viberg, Chalmers  
David Simon, Director  
Stephen Agong, KLIP  
Margareta Forsberg, GOLIP  
Beth Perry, SMLIP  
Warren Smit, CTLIP  
Barry Ness, SKLIP was replaced by Joyce Soo  
Mattias Goksör was replaced by Liane Thuvander items 1-8 and Ylva Norén Bretzer from 3.30 pm when finish

#### Invited participants:

Viveka Blomgren, Secretariat  
Jan Riise, Secretariat  
Henrietta Palmer, Deputy Scientific Director

**Not participating:** Oliva Bina, Lyla Mehta, Mattias Goksör, Johan Edman, Barry Ness

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair opened the full meeting and welcomed the participants and thanked everyone for the last meeting.

#### **2. Approval of the agenda and potential conflicts of interest**

The Board approved the agenda. No conflicts of interest were reported. The Chair was asked if Track 1 and 2 connected to the future hosting and funding will be discussed under items 5 and 6 – this was confirmed.

#### **3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes from the meeting on 22-23 March 2018 were not approved. Parts that was not recorded will be clarified for approval for the Board. The abridged version of the Vision and Mission was approved.

No matters arising were noted as those issues will be dealt with as separate items during this meeting.

The Role of the Board was raised as well as to whom the Board reports. In the November 2017 meeting, the Terms of Reference were updated and recirculated as an attachment to

the Agenda for the March meeting (#27), when "Submit" was changed to "Approve" to reflect the actual responsibilities.

There was a discussion about legal responsibility, with reference to the contract between Mistra and Chalmers. The Chair emphasized that the role of the Board is not to take Chalmers' responsibility, which hosts the Centre on behalf of the Gothenburg Consortium. The Board should consider the strategic perspective and not operational matters. Thomas Elmqvist suggested that it could be useful to look at the parallel situation with Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and Stockholm University. Thomas Elmqvist will present the process being negotiated between SRC and Stockholm University in the June meeting.

The Director would pursue these issues and incorporate them into revised minutes for approval at the next meeting on 12 June.

#### **4. Inviting Potential Funding Partners post - 2019 - document**

The invitation document for potential funders was presented. The material is not a unique selling pitch, rather a teaser to create curiosity to discuss possibilities for funding Mistra Urban Futures, with a final section that will be tailored to each potential funder to be approached.

The hosting arrangement was a large question in the last meeting. There has been good progress – see item 5 below.

The big issue of what crucial problem Mistra Urban Futures is resolving and why it should be funded from 2020 should be introduced briefly at the start, if the current box 'Knowledge for Just Cities' is retained near the end; otherwise, move the box forwards.

The document was approved with the above clarifications. Opinions and suggestions should be sent to the Head of Administration by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **5. Hosting post 2019 GU and Chalmers**

Discussions have been held since the last Board meeting and Chalmers would prefer to host the global Secretariat of Mistra Urban Futures jointly with Göteborgs Universitet (GU) post-2019. This still requires formal discussion and agreement with GU.

The Director had a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April with the president of Chalmers, Stefan Bengtsson, and the respective Vice-Rectors Anna Dubois, Mats Viberg and Fredrik Hörsted. Thanks to Mats Viberg for liaising with his colleagues. The precise structure and the institutional base will be determined. One option could be as part of Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development, formerly GMV. Chalmers' leadership and the Director still need to talk to GU and Mattias Goksör and a written statement from GU is needed.

The Director clarified the difference between the Centre and the Gothenburg platform (GOLIP). Two parallel processes are running. One is a consultant working for the Consortium Council and GOLIP to present a potential organizational structure and financial structure for GOLIP post-2019. He is interviewing people from projects, partners, GOLIP and the Centre. The report will be finish by end of June. Another consultant will present a suggestion of a strategic plan to raise programme funding for the Centre.

A question was raised regarding the commitment from the host. Does it also include funding? Mats Viberg did not have an answer yet but he confirmed that the two universities would address this as part of their negotiations.

The work with finding programme funds for post-2019 is now able to commence since the hosting platform is close to being set. The information was noted and approved. A final commitment and written statement about what kind of responsibilities the Universities will take was requested by the June Board meeting, even though formal decisions by the Rectors will take longer.

**Decision:** To note with approval Chalmers' decision on hosting, which provides the necessary secure basis for the fundraising strategy, and to await final decisions by both universities at the next Board meeting.

## 6. Organisation, framework/ remit and funding strategy

Each of the LIPs is establishing a local committee to investigate future local funding. A list of possible funders was circulated and the Board was asked for their additions and contacts.

Our next step is for the Secretariat to start a systematic scanning of potential funders using staff in Gothenburg. The idea is to build up a portfolio with deadlines and processes for the respective trusts and foundations, taking advantage of those that might finance themes, sectors (climate, transport, etc) or regions. Hence, we might need partial funding from several organisations. The Centre will have meeting next week with a consultant. After that a strategic fundraising plan will be presented.

It might be worth looking at different strategies for different scales of operation – small, medium, and full scale. We would need about 150 MSEK over 4 years at full scale. The Secretariat could readily map the respective funding requirements onto the different future scenarios developed during 2017.

We are looking for a few large funders. We do have Sida as a current programme funder and, subjective to a positive review and the outcome of the 2018 general election on Sida priorities and funds, it is open to funding a third phase. This is a crucial asset in terms of attracting other programme funders.

Overall, to continue the current scale and range of activity, we would need around 35 MSEK per year, including 5-6 MSEK for the Secretariat. The ask to the group of funders is thus 5-35 MSEK p.a.

SMLIP has a better discussion position with their hosts and funders now with the commitment from Chalmers and GU. CTLIP has possible institutional support from the University of Cape Town, but it has never funded CTLIP directly. An option might be the universities in the other LIPs become owners/ funders.

The Centre's name is important and needs to be discussed further. Mistra will not appeal for new funders, although continuity may have a benefit in terms of brand recognition. One option would be to agree a name independent of funders, so that it could remain constant in future.

The Board found the diagram of the Centre and its activities and reach very useful but revisions were suggested to add linkages between the LIPS/Node and to present the very diverse activities/roles in the yellow circles in a more consistent way.

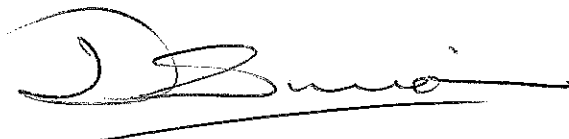
**Decision:** To approve the process set out and congratulate the Centre on the progress made since the March meeting. The precise roles and terms of reference for Tracks 1 and 2 of the working group would be finalised at the June meeting in the light of the confirmed hosting arrangements and fundraising plan formulated by the Centre's consultant. A revised version of the document should be circulated with the minutes.

**7. Next meeting**

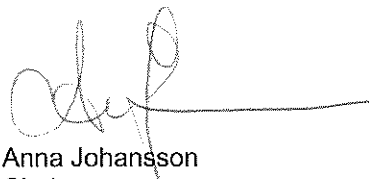
Anna confirmed the next Board meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> June from 4-6 pm. CEST. This is a phone meeting.

**8. Any other business**

No other business was reported and Anna Johansson closed the meeting and thanked all participants for a fruitful and constructive meeting.



David Simon  
Director



Anna Johansson  
Chair