

Mistra Urban Futures

Minutes Board Meeting No. 19

23 November, 2015, 16.00-18.00 CET
Phone Conference

Participants:

Thomas Rosswall (Chair)
Thomas Elmqvist
Colin Fudge
Klas Groth
Katarina Pelin
Hans Ristner
Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez

Ex officio:

Katarina Gärdfeldt, GC Council
Karl-Gunnar Olsson, Chalmers
David Simon, Director

Invited participants:

Mikael Cullberg, GOLIP
Beth Perry, GMLIP
Warren Smit, CTLIP
Ulrica Gustafsson, Secretariat
Jan Riise, Secretariat
Cecilia Örnroth, Secretariat

Notice of absence:

Elisabeth Deakin
Johan Edman, Mistra

1. **Opening of the meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for the current Board and thanked everyone for their contributions over the past two years.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

The Chair invited the members to review the agenda and suggest any additional issues that might be discussed under agenda item #7, Any other business.

Decision:

To approve the agenda as circulated.

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

The Minutes from the meeting on 1-2 October had been circulated and approved by the Board electronically.

The Sida Programme Proposal had also been circulated to the Board and was submitted to Sida on 11 October, after review by the Chair and Vice Chair.

Decisions:

To note that the minutes from Board meeting 1-2 October have been approved; and
 To note the Sida Program Proposal, submitted to Sida on 11 October 2015.

4. Revised Strategic Plan and Centre Operational Plan 2016

The revised Strategic Plan was submitted to Mistra on 20 November 2015.

The COP has been drafted collaboratively with the LIP Directors on the basis of the Mistra funding decision and is divided into two main sections:

1) An International Collaborative Framework 2016-2019 that describes the conceptual framework for operationalising the Phase 2 Strategic Plan (SP). This provides necessary contextualization for the COP 2016 and will subsequently become a standalone document to accompany the revised Strategic Plan. It explains the evolution of our thinking beyond the five themes of the SP into three research TRACKs (socio-ecological, socio-spatial and socio-cultural transformations respectively) that embrace the research activities within and between LIPs/nodes; develops a typology of modes of comparative research, of which we expect to be represented within our evolving portfolio of projects; and provides an indicative categorization of outputs we expect to be produced during Phase 2.

2) Structuring and Localising Comparative Research which includes the actual Centre Operational Plan 2016 and the matching draft budget. As the first year of Phase 2, we expect the profile of activities to be somewhat different from subsequent years in that it will comprise a mixture of Phase 1 reporting, lesson documentation and knowledge consolidation on the one hand and new project planning and launch on the other. All these activities are set out under appropriate headings in this document. They range from essential management/governance tasks for Phase 2 and refinement of the intellectual framework to methodological refinement and research on three 'core processes' of urban change, urban knowledge and urban governance. As previously discussed and agreed, we aim to have a more flexible rolling planning process in Phase 2 to avoid the problems caused in the LIPs by the rigid annual operating plan approval system during Phase 1. Accordingly, the 2016 COP should be read as the agenda for the first year of a 4-year phase rather than for a self-contained single year.

Board members responded positively to the draft COP and sought various clarifications and provided helpful suggestions for revisions. These would be taken into account in preparation of the final version for circulation to the Board for approval by 7th December.

Decisions:

To note with pleasure the Revised Strategic Plan, submitted to Mistra on 20 November, 2015;

To request a final version of the COP and Budget 2016, taking in the comments from the Board; and

To approve the final version of the COP and Budget by email. The documents are to be sent to the Board on 7 December, for email approval by 9 December.

5. Status of appointment of Board members for 2016-2017

The Chair informed the meeting that Chalmers is consulting with Mistra and the Gothenburg Consortium regarding the new Board members. So far it has been decided that Thomas Rosswall will continue as Chairman of the Board for an additional two years. Chalmers will contact existing Board members individually. Some will continue also in the new Board. The Chair expressed his gratitude towards current Board members and said it had been a pleasure to work with them.

6. Status of Mistra, Sida and Gothenburg Consortium agreements and agreements with LIPs/node

The Mistra and Gothenburg Consortium agreements for Phase 2 are well under way, and the intention is to have them both signed before the end of this year. The new agreements include several changes, of which the biggest is that Sida will now fund the Centre directly, and not through Mistra. Several changes will be implemented in the Mistra, Sida and GC agreements. Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström informed via email after the meeting that it is confirmed that the Sida project committee will not be able to review and recommend a decision on Sida's new support to MUF until their first meeting of 2016 in mid-January. The letter from the government containing Sida's budget instructions for 2016 is expected to be sent to Sida in mid-December. There are positive indications that Sida's budget will not be reduced significantly and that the planned budget for Sida's environment portfolio, where they have the proposed allocation for MUF, may be maintained.

Decisions:

To note that the intention is to have the agreements with Mistra and the Gothenburg Consortium signed before the end of this year.

To note that the agreement with Sida will be done directly from Chalmers; and

To note that the final Sida decision will not be taken until early next year.

7. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Next meetings

Proposed meetings in 2016 of new Board:

#20: March – physical meeting in Gothenburg (including joint meeting with the Gothenburg Consortium Council), to discuss strengthened funding strategy together with GC, engagement and communication, QME and approve the annual report

#21: June – phone meeting (4-6pm, CET)

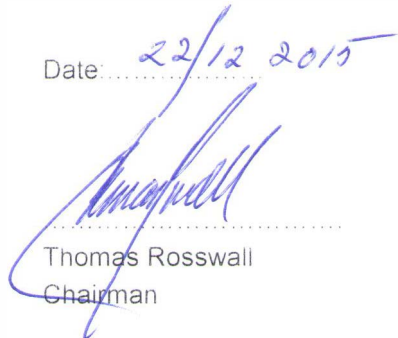
#22: 22 Sept – physical meeting in Gothenburg (meeting held in conjunction with the Annual International Conference which will be held on 19-21 Sept), to approve draft COP 2017 and budget

#23: November – phone meeting (4-6pm, CET), to approve COP 2017

Decision:

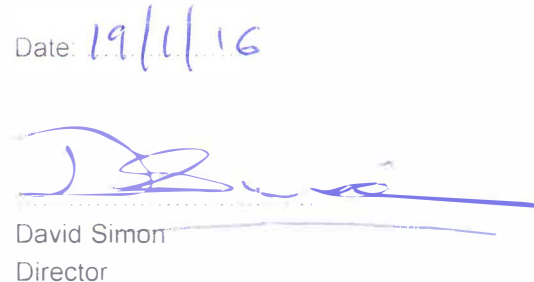
To note the provisional meeting dates and venues for 2016.

Date: 22/12 2015



Thomas Rosswall
 Chairman

Date: 19/1/16



David Simon
 Director