Minutes, AGM for LARP Society, September 21st, 2017 @ 15:00 GMT.

Present: Sarah Blagden (SB), Utz Fisher (UF), Rich Maraia (RM), Helen Davies (HD), Uta Boeger-Brown (UB), Jyotsna Vinayak (JV), Hiba Al-Ashtal (HA), Mark Bayfield (Secretary and Chair of meeting, MB).

Agenda Item 1: **Approval of the minutes from the 2016 AGM**.

SB moved to approve the minutes, seconded by HD. Approved unanimously, no matters arising from the minutes.

Items 2 (LARPSOC 18: date, location, estimated number of attendees, organizing subcommittee) and 3 (Update on invited speakers for LARPSOC18) were discussed as a single item led by UF:

- The dates of the LARPSoc 2018 meeting are 10th – 13th September, 2018, in Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber, a town near Wurzburg, Germany. We have currently reserved lodging for 50 people, and there is an option to add accommodation for more. Meeting room size should not be an issue.

- Joan Steitz and Nahum Sonenberg have agreed to attend, as has Pier Paulo Pandolfi (verbally). Sandra Wolin, Renée Schroeder and Jack Keene were also brought up as potential invitees.

- The meeting organizing committee was decided to be: UF, RM, Gunter Meister, MB SB, JV and HA. UB will assist with meeting planning and HD will arrange some of the LARPSoc financials on a volunteer basis. RM will need a letter substantiating his participation on the organization committee.

- In terms of what needs to be done, in chronological order:

     i)   The other invitees should be emailed as soon as possible so as to save the date (UF and/or RM)
     ii)   UF will try and arrange a poster in the coming weeks so as to add to a "save the date" email (see below)
     iii)   The website will be updated with the poster and any other new details prior to the first meeting email announcement to the distribution list (UB and HD).
     iv)   A save the date email announcement will be sent to the email distribution list once the poster and website have been made/updated.

- UF will attempt to get a sense of the major costs associated with the meeting (venue costs, lodging if that is to be included)

- UB and HD will also send around the email distribution list shortly so that we can add other potential contacts.

- The meeting organizing committee will plan to meet again in about five weeks (early November?) to reassess where we are with these items and attempt to project costs. Related to this, there will be further discussion about cost/benefit of having a printed meeting booklet. At the last meeting the printed booklet cost approximately 800 GBP, but RM was able to arrange a less costly version that he put together himself for the Virginia meeting. Another item for discussion will be the feasibility/advantages of separating the lodging component (meals?) from the meeting registration component.

Item 4, Fundraising:

Last meeting cost about 15,000 pounds. It will be important to get an estimate of how much to run the meeting from Wurzburg. It is expected that we will arrange this meeting without a further contribution from Nick Jenkins, and the shortfall will have to come from more extensive fundraising or higher registration costs.

Item #5, Frontiers eBook:

The Frontiers group are interested in making an eBook stemming from the conference, but there was some skepticism that we would be able to assemble the minimum number of 10 papers for that to happen.   There was some appetite for someone taking the lead of writing and publishing a meeting review; ideally one major contributor/organizer with some contributions from other authors.   RM has been a part of similar write-ups previously for RNA Pol III meetings.

Item #6, Financial Report:

HD and UB presented the financials for the Society. LARPSoc currently has a carry forward balance of approximately 6000 GBP. The goal is to try and break even for the meeting to keep the 6000 pound buffer. Thus a cost estimate for the meeting represents one of the most essential items for the Society to anticipate incoming funds that will be required.

The AGM adjourned at 16:15 GMT.