

Digital Rights Watch Inc.
Annual General Meeting
MINUTES

Date and time: 8:30-9:30pm AEDT, Thursday 1st March 2018

Location: Virtual only (<https://meet.jit.si/DigitalRightsWatch>)

Attendees: Tim Singleton Norton, David Paris, Nicolas Suzor, Elizabeth O'Shea, Ben Harris-Roxas, Vanessa Toholka, Tom Sulston, Peter Tonoli, Serina McDuff, 2 anonymous.

Apologies: Amy Gray, Angela Daly

Proxies: Amy Gray, James Clark sent notifications of giving their proxies to Tim Singleton Norton

Business of the meeting:

1. Elections to the Board

Nominations had been received to fill the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary and ordinary members by the agreed time. As one member has nominated for each position, the Chair declares each position filled by its respective nominee. Accordingly, the Chair declares the following elections:

Tim Singleton Norton: Chair

Nicolas Suzor: Deputy Chair

Amy Gray: Secretary

Elizabeth O'Shea: ordinary member

Angela Daly: ordinary member

Serina McDuff: ordinary member

Tom Sulston: ordinary member

David Paris: ordinary member

Vanessa Toholka: ordinary member

The board recognises and thanks the work of outgoing board member Rick Chen. The new board will convene shortly to discuss and plan for the year ahead.

2. Reporting on work of the organisation in previous year:

Chair tabled a [draft version of the 2017 Annual Report](#) and spoke to this.

- Activities
- Partnerships
- External factors and influences

Reflections on Annual Report from members:

- Need for external funding - we should look to our membership as to who who can lend their skills?
- Maybe shift from seeking core funding towards project funding? Seek margins on individual project grants that can build reserves for the organisation.
- David offered to look at models from equivalent orgs around the world and seek advice.

- What about fee for service models such as developing tools and technology that we seek profits from advocacy organisations to fund DRW? This may take us away from core mission work.
- We should also look at in-kind partnerships that can lend us support - eg support from Thoughtworks to date.

3. Financial situation for the organisation

Chair provided an update on the current finances of the organisation.

With income secured last year from LUSH Digital Fund of ~\$15k, and then taking into account projected expenses of the organisation in 2018, DRW has cash in reserves of \$2k.

4. Future workplan of the organisation

Potential future workplan for the organisation.

Continued focus on public awareness activities - media, events, outreach and education. Looking to partner with other orgs wherever possible - EFA have already reached out, continued partnerships with APF, Access Now and academic institutions.

Committed projects:

- State of Digital Rights report - to be released March TBC
- Melbourne Knowledge Week event (similar to Melbourne Writers Festival event) - May 9
- LUSH fund videos - under production

Please note that this is subject to discussion and approval of the newly elected DRW board.

4. Questions

Members opportunity to ask any questions or clarifications from the DRW board.

Ben - opportunities to have stronger links with academic fields - eg linkage in health area

Vanessa - What is DRW doing for Privacy Awareness Week - 13-19 May? Need to incorporate into PR plans.

Actions:

- Ben to follow up and report back on opportunities for stronger linkages with health academics
- David to look at models of funding arrangements to similar organisations and bring back recommendations
- Vanessa to advise on DRW's potential involvement in Privacy Awareness Week
- Tim to circulate finalised Annual Report and AGM minutes to DRW members

Meeting closed at 9:05pm