



B7 Baltic Islands Network

Åland Chairmanship 2013

P.O.B. 1060

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING:

MEETING: September 4th, 2013

Venue: Conference room Ådskär at Ålands landskapsregering, Strandgatan 37, AX-22 111 Mariehamn

Date & Time: September 4th, 2013 at 13.00-16.30

Officials:

Island	Name		Position
Åland	Pamela Baarman (PB)	Yes	B7 Board Chair 2013
Gotland	Anne Ståhl-Mousa (ASM)	Yes	B7 Board
Öland	Anders Nyholm (AN)	Yes	B7 Board
Rügen	Martina Schwinkendorf (MS)	Yes	B7 Board
Saaremaa	Jaan Leivategija (JL)	Yes	B7 Board
Bornholm	Henrik Eybye Nielsen (HEN)	No	B7 Board
Hiiumaa	Piret Sedrik (PS)	Yes	B7 Board
Åland	Jessica Josefsson (JJ)	Yes	B7 Secretariat 2013

§ 1. Discussion about the fact that Bornholm is to leave B7 from 1st of January 2014:

Gotland: On Islepact's latest meeting Bornholm indicated that that they would concentrate on other co-operations like CPMR. In other words, that they would leave B7.

Öland: What does the charter say about withdrawals? (The board concludes that nothing is mentioned in the charter about similar situations)

Gotland: As Bornholm currently takes care of B7's financial business as well as the webpage. They're also leader in some projects. What will happen with that?

Hiiumaa: We need to get to an agreement over the transmission of the finances. How will we do that? And who takes care of the Chairmanship next year? There's not much time left.

Öland: We should use the Annual Conference to have a deeper discussion about the future. Öland also want to keep the co-operation.

Rügen: We believe that it's not fair to the other islands with such a sudden withdrawal. But we also think that the workgroups could more or less work without B7. It's also worth mentioning that we have put a lot of money into the new strategy.

Saaremaa: It's possible for the organisation to live a few years on saved money.

Åland: We have similar thoughts to Bornholm but we have B7 Games next year and feel responsible for that. It's also sad to break up the network altogether.

Islands of the B7: Bornholm (Denmark), Gotland (Sweden), Hiiumaa (Estonia), Rügen (Germany), Saaremaa (Estonia), Åland (Autonomous territory in Finland) and Öland (Sweden)



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Gotland: Gotland does not have resources to pursue all the projects. We'd also like to focus more on Islepact and at the moment we can't really see anything that's speaking in B7's favour (when it comes to projects and so on). That's except from the B7 Games and some People to people projects. The fact that Bornholm did not come to today's meeting also shows that their decision is irreversible.

Rügen: Rügen have never really thought about leaving B7. But we have had few projects that have been successful during the last years. And B7 have been living in those. B7 Games as well as Meet Art is exceptions and it's sad to give everything up because of that.

Gotland: B7 Games is successful and people know what it is.

Hiiumaa: We've not thought about leaving either.

Saaremaa: Maybe it's possible for B7 to survive if the organisation works in a different way. Saaremaa hasn't thought about leaving either.

Can B7 exist without Bornholm (and maybe Åland)?

Gotland: Wouldn't that be like going back to square one? It might be possible to keep People to People and B7 Games.

Rügen: But if we decrease more and more what's left them?

Hiiumaa: Would a new facilitator compensate for the fact that there's a lack of resources on the islands?

Rügen: But then there's the problem with money for that.

Gotland: I don't think that it would be possible to finance that. We're only a rich organization because we have so little activity with projects etc.

Rügen: Our problem is that planned projects never become reality. Maybe because nobody really wants to get involved?

Saaremaa: Saaremaa might be able to take care of budget, economy and finances. We need to look into it.

Hiiumaa: Somebody needs to take care of the economy permanently. It's not practical to change annually and start over. A secretary is needed who can keep track of all the facts, resources etc.

Rügen: The problem is that nobody did send information to the webpage. It doesn't matter who does the job. One solution might be to give the job to a young person in a youth group.

Saaremaa: The Steering Committee will question if the money in the budget is not being used.

Gotland and Rügen: It's dangerous to say that no money is needed. Then it might be hard to get any money in the future. We should instead make use of what we have.

Åland: The membership fees are not reduced with 50 % next year, it's a misunderstanding. The future of membership fees needs to be decided either today or at the Annual Conference.

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Rügen: Since Saaremaa is the chair next in line after Bornholm are they prepared to take on the role next year?

Saaremaa: It might be hard since we're not prepared. Not sure if we will be ready for such responsibility right now or in the beginning of next year. It needs to be discussed first.

Gotland: Annual Conference is early this year. The next chair needs a budget. Every island needs to decide what they want.

Rügen: Somebody can lead but we don't need to plan a lot. We could keep it small.

Saaremaa: There's a risk when you don't delegate areas of responsibility. We might end up with nothing happening.

Gotland: Is there a risk that two withdrawals means more? What does the politicians think?

Saaremaa: What will happen to the new strategy? And without a formal organisation and budget what's left then? It would be hard to organize activities then.

Gotland: Some politicians think that that nothing is happening in relation to invested money. Maybe we should have a board in a new format more like a task force?

Rügen: If one doesn't put in anything one won't get any profit either. We should be honest enough to recognize that.

Gotland: Everyone is low in manpower. Åland is a less surprising withdrawal than Bornholm.

Åland: There are too many meetings that take up too much time and resources.

Gotland: We're different islands with different needs and everyone cannot be happy all the time.

Öland: The decision about the future should be postponed to the Annual Conference.

§2. MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING: (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To approve the minutes from previous Board meeting in Tallinn 4th of June 2013.

Decision: Agenda approved, with a mention that Martina sent out a version of a new budget as stipulated in the last agenda.

§3. APPROVAL of AGENDA: (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To approve the agenda for the meeting.

Decision: Agenda approved, with an addition of a new § 1 entitled Bornholm.

§4. ÅLAND CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To give an update on the Annual programme and dates for Chairmanship programme 2013.



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B7 won't take part in UBC General Assembly 30.9- 4.10. ASM will participate but representing Gotland, not B7. The e-book will hopefully be released earlier than planned, hopefully in time for the Annual Conference.

Open Days in Brussels is on the agenda if somebody would like to participate. It's possible to make use of B7 money in that case. Currently no members are planning to go.

§5. BUDGET & ACCOUNTS:

Purpose of agenda item: Review status for accounts 2012 and budget 2013.

§ 5.1. Status of budget 2013

- 4000 € has been transferred from budget moment Facilitator to Strategy.

Decision: SC is to approve the transfer.

Gotland should have been paid 8000 € in 2011 for the B7 Games.

Decision: Gotland will look into it and request the money.

Åland will ask Bornholm about more detailed balance sheets.

Right now we're paying too much for book-keeping. It would be cheaper to just buy the service.

Decision: Will ask SC what they think.

Rügen: It doesn't seem sensible to point out separate budget lines. We should instead try to come up with a whole new budget. Is it possible to manage that before the AC?

- Webhosting: As it is now we're not really putting any material up on our website.

The webhosting cost has been reduced from 5000 € to 1600 €. 1600 € should be enough. It should cover costs for virus protection as well as paying the person who takes care of it. It has earlier been the facilitator's task to take care of the website. Who will take care of it now without Bornholm?

Decision: Hiiumaa and Saaremaa will look into the possibility of taking over the webhosting. All members should make sure that they have passwords for the website.

Gotland and Öland have not yet paid their membership fees. They will pay as soon as they get their invoices.

Åland will contact Karen regarding the sending out of invoices.

Strategy costs will be presented for the SC at the SC-meeting.

MS has a meeting with Karen Lynn Jacobsen in October and will then try to sort out anything that's not clear concerning the budget.

§6. THE WEBSITE

Purpose of agenda item: To discuss how the website should be taken care of in the future.

Saaremaa and Hiiumaa will look into the possibility of taking over the responsibility for the website.

Further discussions about the webhosting under point 5.



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§7 (and 8). WORKGROUPS & PROJECTS

Purpose of agenda item: To give an update on what is happening in the workgroups and with on-going projects

§ 7.1. Sustainable development in schools and sustainable message from children and youth. Project leader WG People-to-people.

The workgroup has not yet received answers from all islands (answers from Gotland and Bornholm are still to be received.) The answers are then meant to be evaluated. The proposal was made that the answers might be used in a project within the WG Environment. Maybe look into the possibility of EU-funding?

§ 7.2. Photo exhibition about art project series. Project leader WG People-to-people.

The exhibition is nearly complete. Martina showed examples of photos from the exhibition that will be shown on Åland during the Annual conference in November.

§ 7.3. Meet Art artist co-operation. Project leader WG People-to-people.

The co-operation has been arranged three times since 2011 and it has been successful. It might be possible to arrange it next year, even though Bornholm – who was scheduled to host – won't be able to. It was suggested that the money budgeted for this year's project but not could be added to the money budgeted for next year.

§ 7.4. The future of projects.

How should we go about with projects in the future?
People-to-people will go on with existing projects.

§9. NEXT YEAR'S CHAIRMANSHIP

Purpose of agenda item: To give next year's chair a chance to present and discuss next year's programme.

The issues regarding this have already been discussed under previous agenda points.

Decision: Saaremaa will be looking into the possibilities of taking over the responsibility for next year.

§10. PREPARE FOR THE SC-MEETING

Purpose of agenda item: To go through the SC agenda to ensure Board members are prepared for the meeting.

The present situation will be discussed first. New point on the agenda: "Bornholm and the future".

§11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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§12. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be during the Annual conference 7-8th November 2013.