

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AT THE IRISH CENTRE

ON 11-9-84

PRESENT: Canon Woods, (Vice President), Fr. Malone, T. Dunne, S. McGarry,
M. Kenny, G. O'Flynn, D. Kelly, P. Judge, T. Mangan.

APOLOGIES: M. Moroney, E. Keogh, Fr. Fullam.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

It was proposed by T. Mangan and seconded by M. Kenny, that the minutes be taken as read. The proposal was carried.

LICENCE:

A further hearing is to be heard at Clerkenwell Magistrates Court in relation to the licence. An objection to the granting of the licence was lodged by a local resident who presented a petition with 15 signatories. A counter petition has been organised by the Centre and to date has 30 signatories. The G.L.C., Metropolitan Police and the Residents Association have stated that they have no objection. In the event of the Centre succeeding in its application it will ask that its legal costs be paid by the objectors.

BREWERIES:

Discussions are continuing with Charringtons, Courages and Whitbreads with a view to re-arranging the brewery loans. The next meeting is set for 17th September, 11.30 a.m.

ARCHITECT:

An outstanding bill of approx £700.00 was discovered due to a firm of noise consultants. It came to light when a debt collector contacted the Centre for payment. Fr. Malone agreed to contact the firm for further details, in particular a copy of their report, the original of which was submitted to Keith Roberts, the Centre's architect.

Disatisfaction with the architect in the manner in which he performed his duties and responsibilities to the Centre was a matter of contention at the meeting. His supervision of the repair to the water tank appeared to leave a lot to be desired. It was suggested that serious consideration be given to changing the architect. Tom Mangan kindly agreed to examine the tank and to make his recommendation to Fr. Malone.

FINANCE:

A "Thank You Evening" is to be arranged for all those who assisted in raising funds for the Centre as a mark of appreciation for their efforts. A particular word of thanks was extended to Tom Mangan for his fund raising efforts.

SALES - MARKETING:

1. A professional public relations person is presently being organised by Mr. T. Dunne to enhance the marketing of the Centre.
2. A new prospectus and menu is presently being prepared. Aer Lingus advertising and catering staff are assisting with its production.
3. Mrs. Florrie D'Arcy has full responsibility for bookings.
4. Extensive use is at present being made of the Centre by Theatrical Groups for rehearsals during the week.

S. McGarry suggested that the BBC, ITV should be canvassed in this respect as they were short of rehearsal facilities.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT:

Statistics from our Welfare department show that we have had more "first time" callers in the first seven months of this year than in all of the previous year. There is a notable increase in the numbers of young people arriving from Ireland. The department has been heavily over-burdened for the whole Summer.

The Chairman and Director have discussed the matter of another - i.e. a fourth social worker. With the additional work load as well as visiting the hostels the decision was made to advertise for this extra social worker.

SISTER JOAN:

Sr. Joan has given in her notice. She is being transferred by her order to work within the order. Sister has been ten years at the Centre. A suitable presentation and farewell to be arranged by the Director. The committee record their thanks to Sr. Joan.

A separate post for a "qualified social worker" is to be advertised.

The salary scale for the social workers is to be in accord with the N.J.C. system. This will mean a salary increase for the existing workers.

A grant application for £15,000 has been submitted to the G.L.C. for Computer Equipment to enable the youth with whom we are in contact to acquire and develop basic computer skills to enhance their chances of finding work. We are optimistic about this application. At the same time funding is being sought for the necessary staff to operate the scheme.

IRISH CLASSES:

The Irish classes are due to begin again for the coming school year. I.L.E.A. has agreed to pay the teacher.

HOSTELS:

Irish Centre Hostels are at present negotiating for the site next to the hostel in Quex Road - costing £50,000 approx. "Dion", the Irish Department of Labour Commission for Emigrants, has been approached by the Irish Centre for extra funding which would cover the two day per week cover at the hostel by a social worker.

SPECIAL FUNCTION:

Pat Judge informed the meeting that a Dinner and Dance on either 31st October or 6th November would take place in the McNamara Hall to raise funds for the Centre. Susan McCann and others would participate and their services would be free.

Tickets £25.00. Strictly no guests.

PADDY KEEGAN:

This month Mr. Paddy Keegan and his wife Sadie are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their wedding. This co-incides with 25 years service to the Irish Centre. The committee asked Fr. Malone to take the whole family out for dinner one evening at the Centre's expense to celebrate the event and to offer our congratulations.

MISCELLANEOUS:

T. Dunne informed the meeting of the two notices issued to staff in relation to personal belongings i.e. baskets, hand luggage. personal deliveries to the Centre.

NEXT MEETING:

9th October 1984 at 8.00 p.m. - Irish Centre, Camden.

T. Dunne 9.10.84