

**Minutes of the
FIFTY EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
(Company no. 4116288 Charity no. 1084165)
on
Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 4pm London time
at the Cumberland, Great Cumberland Place, Marble Arch, London, W1H 7DL,
and online using zoom software**

Attendances:

Online: John Agnew, Rudiger Ahrend, Paolo Balmas, Marco Bellandi, Rui Alexandre Castanho, Matteo Del Fabro, Balazs Forman, Efthymios Spyridon Georgiou, Matyas Jaschitz, Attila Korompai, Sabrina Lai, Micaela Mazzei, Ida Musialkowska, Emma Palmer Foster, Csaba Patkos, Elena Sadovnikova, Thomas Schwab, Paula Tulppo, Dave Valler

In person: Neil Lee, John Bachtler, Jennifer Clark, Marcin Dabrowski, Stefania Fiorentino, Ugo Fratesi, Mia Gray, John Harrison, Simona Iammarino, Alan Kinder, Sandrine Labory, Karen Lai, Dmitri Corpakis, Stephen Little, Gabriela Pascaria, Shauna Brail, Betsy Donald

Attended by: Sally Hardy, Judy Pepper, Alex Holmes, Suede Stanton Drudy

Presentations:

- a. Annual Address by Professor John Agnew, President of the RSA - **"The Other Long Covid: How Have San Francisco and Los Angeles Reacted to the Post-Pandemic Challenge to Agglomeration?"**
- b. Presentation by Sally Hardy, Chief Executive of the RSA – **"So long, and thanks for all the fish": Saying Goodbye to the RSA**
- c. An introduction by incoming Chief Executive of the RSA, Alan Kinder

Alan Kinder thanked for the Board for appointing him and inviting him to the meeting. He reported that since his appointment he had been listening, talking, and thinking things through and had noticed a strong connection between his beliefs and values and those of the Association, in particular the importance of place. He emphasised his view that learned societies were central to the production of knowledge and its dissemination. He hoped to bring to the role a relentless focus on member care and services, new ideas to further raise the Association's profile and on partnership working. He invited the Board to consider in what areas the RSA excels, and what can be improved and how. He would welcome that input once in post.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and were signed and dated by the Chair.

2. To receive, and if thought fit, to adopt the report of the Board and the Statement of Accounts 2022

The meeting adopted the Report of the Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for 2022 which it noted had been fully independently audited, agreed unanimously by Board members and lodged in accordance with the regulations with both the Charity Commission and Companies House in the UK.

3. To appoint and fix remuneration for an auditor for 2023

The meeting agreed the delegation the RSA Chief Executive and Treasurer (Sarah Ayres at the time of writing) of the appointment and remuneration for the auditor for 2023, currently Kreston Reeves.

4. To elect members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any

An email carrying the standard call for nominations of potential board members was sent to the RSA membership in August 2023.

Thanks were noted to retiring Trustees for their service on the board and their assistance and dedication to the Association in their complex and at times challenging roles which they performed with great skill and commitment.

The AGM noted the retirement during the year of David Bailey as Editor in Chief of Regional Studies and Paul Elhorst as Co-optee Editor-in-Chief, Spatial Economic Analysis in April 2023. Sally Hardy acknowledged the contributions of David Bailey and Paul Elhorst and welcomed Jennifer Clark and Ugo Fratesi as a worthy replacements.

It was noted that three trustees came to the end of their term at the AGM:

- Simona Iammarino
- John Harrison
- Rachel Franklin

All three were thanked for their contribution to the Association.

It was noted that the following people remained in post from previous years and experienced no change of role during their term.

- Neil Lee - Chair of the RSA Board, Chair Policy Committee, Partnership and Cooperative-Working
- Sarah Ayres - Treasurer, Nov 2024
- John Bachtler - Vice Chair of the Board, EU/Regional Policy portfolio, Nov 2024
- Ron Boschma - Vice Chair of the Board, Chair of the Research Committee, Nov 2024
- Jennifer Clark - Editor in Chief, Regional Studies (from July 2023), Nov 2028

- Marcin Dabrowski - Chair, International Territorial Committee, Nov 2025
- Mia Gray – Vice Chair of the Board, Board Secretary, Communication and Public Engagement, Prizes and Awards portfolio, Nov 2024

All were thanked for their continuing work.

At this point Simona Iammarino and John Harrison left the room.

It was explained that two nominations had been received from the membership and two new Trustee appointments were sought from the AGM. The AGM re-elected John Harrison and Simona Iammarino as Trustees for a term of 3 years.

At this point Simona Iammarino and John Harrison returned to the room.

The AGM noted the Co-optees continuing in post.

- Klaus Dodds, to continue as co-optee Editor, Territory Politics Governance to Nov 2024
- Stefania Fiorentino to continue as co-optee Editor, Regions E-zine to Nov 2024
- Joan Fitzgerald, to continue as Editor, Regions and Cities Book Series to Nov 2024
- Ugo Fratesi to continue (from April 2023) as co-optee Editor-in-Chief, Spatial Economic Analysis to Nov 2024
- Stephen Hincks, to continue as Editor in Chief, Regional Studies, Regional Science to Nov 2024
- Louise Kempton to continue as co-optee Editor of the RSA Policy Impact books to Nov 2024
- Weidong Liu to continue as a co-optee Editor, Area Development and Policy to Nov 2024
- Brady Reid to continue as RSA Blog Editor to Nov 2024
- Mark Scott, appointed in July 2022, to continue as Publications Committee Chair to Nov 2024

It was noted that the Board was required to balance the numbers of elected and co-opted trustees and that during their Board meeting preceding the AGM they had appointed

- Ida Musialkowska to the Board as a trustee

and she was welcomed by the meeting.

Finally, the AGM noted the observers to the Board during the year:

- Mick Dunford, Area Development and Policy Representative Observer - until 31 October 2023
- Shenjing He, Area Development and Policy Representative Observer - from 1 November 2023
- Tanya Chandra, Student Representative – until 31 October 2023
- Grete Gansauer, Student Representative – from 1 November 2023
- Vanessa Guerra, Early Career Representative - until 31 October 2023
- Kerstin Schaefer, Early Career Representative – from 1 November 2023
- Karen Lai, Representative Editor, Finance and Space – from February 2023

5. **To confer the honorary title of President and Vice President of the Regional Studies Association**

The AGM agreed to delegate the decision of the conferral of the first President and Vice-President in the new system for 2024/2025 to the RSA Board including the decision on their length of term.

6. **Action to follow appointments: to agree authorisation of the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive with regard to financial institutions**

The meeting agreed to authorise the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive to action and implement all requirements of any financial institutions with whom the Association has accounts. The meeting noted that there will be a CEO changeover in April 2024 and that for a short period of time there may be two CEOs with signature rights.

7. **Any other items for discussion but not decision**

Stephen Little offered to be involved in the development of the Africa Division.

The Chair thanked –

- the staff team for their work during the year
- Board members for their commitment to the Association and for the time that they will have devoted to Association business during the year – and in particular major office holders
- John Agnew for his presentation and his service as President
- Sally for outstanding work over 37 years.

The meeting was formally ended.

Ends