

UBC Open Commission meeting – Gävle, April 2017 – notes

Wednesday, April 5th

Welcome by Joakim Lindblad, head of Culture School.
Introduction to topics of the meeting

Open meeting

- News from UBC
 - Lena informed from UBC Executive Board meeting in Stockholm last November and in Kristiansand last February.
 - Carsten talked with the group about possibilities in the future for us to participate/cooperate more with other commissions. Should we find participants from the country where the meetings are held or should we have regular participants during an amount of time participating in meetings?
 - The participants were divided into two groups, one with youth and one with civil servants. Results from the discussions;
Communication and participation and we could also be more active inviting other commissions to our meetings.
- Chair/Vice chair/future meetings
 - We talked about a new vice chair that will start already now getting some more information and then step up as vice chair from 1 January 2017. Ruta says that Riga is interested but because of a political change in the near future they cannot give an answer right away. Our participant from Växjö, Magnus is interested in becoming a vice chair as well but he needs to talk further with policy makers i Växjö. Franzi says that Rostock might be interested in an "internship" as a vice.
 - We also have the possibility to do this differently, change the period of time for chair/vice chair or more cities get involved with the commission work.
- News on projects
 - Carsten gave us an update about the application for the Växjö conference, 14 partners signed the mandate for the project and at the moment, if the application are improved, we have the possibility to gather 60 youth and leaders in Växjö next October.
 - Carsten continued informing about a project with UBC, BSSSC (Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation) and ERB (EuroRegional Baltic). We talked about last EU Strategy forum in Stockholm last November and the next in Berlin, June 2017 and Tallinn 2018. We have the possibility to send 10 youth participants to Berlin in June and our deadline for registration is Tuesday 18 April.
 - Last project in the information from Carsten was regarding CaSYPoT, where UBC is an associated partner and as such has no working role. Outcome of the project – international version of the Swedish Lupp survey – could also be interesting for UBC cities – it could prove to be a very useable tool in future work.
- General discussion of the theme – Digital renewal
- Workshop on topic "Digital renewal"
 - The teacher Martin Alexandersson and two of his pupils, Edvin och Bjarne visited us and told us and then showed us about their work with building Gävle as a map with Minecraft.
 - Marie Nilsson from the IT department in Gävle visited us and informed us about the work with digital renewal.

- After this we had a workshop and discussed the two questions that we raised before this meeting;
 - o How has your municipality worked with digital renewal aimed at young people?
 - o What kind of digital initiative aimed at young people do you wish your municipality should develop?
- Mingle at the City Hall
 - In the evening the commission was invited to the City Hall for mingle and dinner with politicians and civil servants. Municipal Commissioner Jan Myléus welcomed the participants to Gävle and talked about the importance of the work of Youthful Cities Commission, not just for Gävle but for the whole Baltic Sea area. The politicians and civil servants also had time to meet youth representatives from the commission and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Thursday, April 6th

- Open commission meeting continued
 - o Topics of UBC general assembly (GA) and UBC YCC Youth conference
Carsten presented the topic of this year's General Conference in Växjö in October, "Leadership of the future" and he also presented the program for the General Conference. After that Carsten went through the plans for the youth conference. We asked the group for good ideas, good workshop leaders, speakers etc.
 - o The probable lodging place for the youth conference is called Hjortsbergagården ca 20 minutes outside Växjö.
 - o We will cooperate with a local NGO in Växjö (Nettverket SIP), working with social issues, they are also experienced in arranging international visits, conferences etc.
 - o Then we had a general discussion of the interaction between the two conferences. Many interesting ideas were proposed. The chair/vice-chair will take these into consideration when working more with the YC.
- Other projects
 - o Finally other ongoing projects and future ideas were put to the table for open discussion.
- Reverse study visit
 - o Ulrika Svedén, pedagogue at the Culture school, presented El Sistema and then an orchestra of the kids active within El Sistema in Gävle performed for us.
 - o More information; www.elsistema.se or www.facebook.com/elsistemagavle
- Cultural workshops
 - o 2 cultural workshops were held in the culture school (animation and ukulele's)
- Historical city tour

Friday, April 7th

The meeting ended on April 7th with workshops on future cooperation with BSSSC and ERB a presentation of Växjö by Magnus and a meeting evaluation.