

MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2016, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on July 14, 2016. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.; Vice Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson; and Committee member David Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Skorton; Acting Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Director of the National Museum of American History John Gray; Under Secretary for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; Acting Provost/Under Secretary for Museums & Research Richard Kurin; General Counsel Judith Leonard; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Rachel Parker; and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER AND EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCarter called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and the Committee entered into an executive session to discuss a sensitive and potentially litigious matter.

The executive session adjourned at approximately 11:13 a.m., after which the Committee entered into open session.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the June 1, 2016, morning and afternoon meetings without modification.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Secretary Skorton reflected upon his first year as Secretary and discussed his goals and vision for the future of the Smithsonian. The Secretary reported that overall, his first year has been a success, with many new initiatives launched, including the Smithsonian Secretary’s Scholars program, which aims to grow and renew the curatorial and scholarly work-force across the Smithsonian; and the Secretary’s Youth Advisory Council, a teen group that is providing insight and a new perspective to Smithsonian leadership.

The Secretary has also proposed a process and assembled a team to develop the next strategic plan, which will include a complementary vision statement to represent the Smithsonian’s true strategic direction. Regent Board and Executive Committee Vice Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson and Sant Director of the National Museum of Natural History Dr. Kirk Johnson will lead the strategic planning team.

The Secretary will focus future priorities on expanding the Smithsonian’s reach even further by convening important discussions and focusing on vital issues that affect people across the globe.

OPENING OF NMAAHC

The Secretary provided an update on the opening plans for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (“NMAAHC”). A number of celebratory activities and events will be held in the days leading up to and following the museum’s September 24, 2016, grand opening. Programs will include musical performances, curated activities, and evening concerts that will explore and celebrate the museum’s rich content and stories. The public opening events will be designed to accommodate the vast crowds that are anticipated, addressing all aspects of logistics and security.

LONDON UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Smithsonian’s collaboration in London with the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A), including next steps for the project. Final discussions with the V&A are still underway and conceptual planning is in the early phases. In the coming months, Smithsonian management will convene regularly with the V&A both in London, England and in Washington, DC, in order to continue vital conversations with regards to timeline, funding, and content for the galleries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee conducted a final executive session to continue discussions regarding donor cultivation and hiring of personnel for the Arts & Industries Building.

Lastly, the Committee received several updates regarding personnel matters related to the staffing and organization of senior management and open museum director positions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:53 a.m.

EMAIL BALLOT

By email ballot completed on August 8, 2016, the Executive Committee voted to approve two motions, on behalf of the Board of Regents. The following gift actions required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the next full Board meeting in order to facilitate the timing of programs with specific deadlines due to the schedule of openings and public announcements.

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, recognizes the generosity of the Rhimes Family Foundation to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, accepts the gift, and names the Rhimes Family Foundation Visual Arts Gallery for 25 years or until the next major renovation, whichever occurs later.

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, recognizes the generosity of Michael Jordan to the National Museum of African American History and Culture and names the Michael Jordan Hall for 25 years or until the next major renovation, whichever occurs later.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. McCarter, Jr.
Chair