

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2010, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“the Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution met on March 25, 2010, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to discuss the agenda for the April 12, 2010, meeting of the Board of Regents. In attendance were Chancellor of the Board of Regents John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States; Board Chair Patty Stonesifer, Vice Chair Alan G. Spoon, and Committee member Robert P. Kogod. Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary G. Wayne Clough, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Patricia Bartlett, and Chief of Staff to the Regents John K. Lapiana.

Ms. Stonesifer called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF APRIL 11, 2010, REGENTS PRE-MEETING PROGRAM

Ms. Stonesifer noted that all Regents have been invited to a small dinner on April 11, 2010, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Ms. Stonesifer said that that one of the goals of the evening would be to energize the Regents on enlivening the Hirshhorn and arts at the Smithsonian. In that regard, before dinner, Richard Koshalek, the Museum’s director, will discuss the some of the major capital opportunities the Museum hopes to take advantage of in the coming years, including the proposed seasonal inflatable pavilion in the Museum’s circular courtyard. Ms. Stonesifer noted that the Museum hopes to identify supporters not only for the pavilion infrastructure, but also for important programming that would be presented in the facility, such as the use of the arts and cultural diplomacy.

AGENDA FOR BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

Ms. Stonesifer noted that the Regents’ attachment to the Institution would be strengthened at this meeting by a focus on “Understanding the American Experience,” one of the four Grand Challenges in the strategic plan and the emerging national campaign.

Arts and Industries (A&I) Building. The meeting will begin in the Arts and Industries Building, Ms. Stonesifer explained. Secretary Clough and Sheryl Kolasinski, who has been detailed from the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations to lead the A&I redevelopment effort, will lead a tour of the structure, highlighting the restoration of the “visual sightlines” of the building resulting from the interior demolition work conducted over the past year. The goal of the tour and subsequent briefing, Secretary Clough said, would be to provide Regents with the structural state of the building and the emerging vision of staff regarding its redevelopment. Secretary Clough said that he sees the building serving as a “portal to the Smithsonian and the Four Grand Challenges.” Executive Committee members, as well as the Secretary, acknowledged, however, that the Presidential Commission on the National Museum for the American Latino has expressed an interest in

locating the new museum in A&I. Secretary Clough emphasized that the current planning and restoration efforts for A&I would not preclude the building housing either a “portal” or a Latino museum.

Ms. Stonesifer stressed that the goals for the Regents meeting were to: 1) underscore the importance of reopening the building, 2) ensure that the Board understands the Secretary’s vision for the building, and 3) set forth the steps that the Smithsonian will undertake to restore the building to 2013 when a decision on the American Latino Museum is expected.

Report of the Secretary. Secretary Clough explained that his report would begin with a progress report on implementation of the strategic plan, followed by a brief update on the Smithsonian’s “organizational chart.” That discussion would underscore that almost all senior positions now have permanent incumbents in place.

Secretary Clough also noted the successes enjoyed by the Natural Museum of Natural History in opening the David Koch Hall of Human Origins on March 17, 2010. He also noted that a Smithsonian team, lead by the Under Secretary for History, Arts, and Culture, visited Haiti and is assessing what the Smithsonian and other cultural organizations can do to help Haitian museums and artists.

Report of the Finance Committee. The Secretary said he will also report, along with the Finance Committee Chair Roger W. Sant, on the status of the best practices review and the work of the Smithsonian’s consultants on the project, McKinsey and Company. Ms. Stonesifer added that Mr. Sant has assembled an impressive advisory group that has been “very engaged” in reviewing McKinsey’s work.

Report of the Investment Committee. Mr. Spoon reported on the Investment Committee meeting conducted on March 23, 2010. The meeting primarily was focused on the results on the Committee’s bi-annual governance review. One of the major issues discussed at that committee, was how to ensure “quality attendance” and participation at meetings.

Report of the Audit and Review Committee. Ms. Stonesifer said that Audit and Review Committee Chair John McCarter will present the Fiscal Year 2009 audited financial statements. In addition, the Board will be requested to consider delegating its review function of IRS Form 990 to the committee.

Lunch Speaker. Ms. Stonesifer noted that Virginia Mecklenberg, curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, will discuss the upcoming exhibition “Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell from the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg.” The exhibition is scheduled to open on July 1, 2010.

National Campaign and the Report of the Advancement Committee. Mr. Spoon noted that he and Secretary Clough, along with Director of External Affairs Virginia

Clark, will present an update on the planning for the Smithsonian's national campaign. Mr. Spoon noted that Paul Neely, Chair of the Smithsonian National Board, has joined the Advancement Committee and is already a productive member.

Report of the Facilities Committee. Mr. Kogod noted that his report will focus on the impact of the winter snowstorms on Smithsonian facilities, the concerns the storms generated, and planning for similar weather in the future.

Report of the Governance Committee. Ms. Stonesifer reviewed the anticipated committee report that included the appointment of a non-Regent member to the Investment Committee and a number of proposed advisory board appointments.

Reports of the General Counsel and Office of Government Relations. Ms. Stonesifer noted that the report of Nell Payne, Director of Government Relations, will include a short overview of the key members of congressional committees with Smithsonian oversight authority. She also directed the Committee members' attention to the General Counsel's Report, which detailed the Smithsonian's timely responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

The meeting was concluded at 12:25 p.m. with members and the Secretary joining the Chancellor for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Stonesifer
Chair