

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a teleconference meeting on November 12, 2015. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair John W. McCarter, Jr.; Vice Chair Shirley Ann Jackson; and Committee member David Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Skorton; Acting Chief of Staff to the Regents Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); Under Secretary for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Albert Horvath; 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

Mr. McCarter called the meeting to order at approximately 11:04 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the October 1, 2015, morning and afternoon meetings without modification.

REGENTS’ ANNUAL PUBLIC FORUM

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson briefed the Committee on the upcoming annual Public Forum, which will be held on December 11, 2015. This year’s Forum will include a question and answer session between Secretary David Skorton and Executive Committee Member and Regent David Rubenstein. Ms. Wilkinson reviewed the agenda, location, and anticipated attendance for the forum.

UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARY

Secretary David Skorton provided the Committee with a summary of his activities over the first few months of his tenure. He has spoken to local leaders around the Washington, D.C. community about the Smithsonian’s programs and activities. The Secretary has received positive feedback about the Smithsonian’s operations from members of the staff, public, volunteers, and advisory board members.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED LOANS TO NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Committee reviewed two proposed loans from Regent and Executive Committee member David Rubenstein* to the African American History and Culture Museum (“NMAAHC”). The first loan is an extension of Mr. Rubenstein’s existing loan of a copy of the Thirteenth Amendment. The second is a new loan of a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation.

* *Committee member David Rubenstein was recused from consideration of this matter and the subsequent motion.*

The following loan actions required approval by the Executive Committee, prior to the next full Board meeting, to facilitate the production of protective cases by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”), in order for the loaned items to be properly preserved and displayed, in time for NMAAHC’s scheduled opening.

Upon duly made and seconded, the following motion was approved:

VOTED that, pursuant to the Board of Regents Ethics Guidelines, the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents, approves the proposed loan by Regent David Rubenstein of the Emancipation Proclamation to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (“NMAAHC”), approves the renewal of the loan by Mr. Rubenstein of the Thirteenth Amendment to NMAAHC, and also approves the arrangement for Mr. Rubenstein to pay for and receive encasements created by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for display of these documents at NMAAHC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then conducted an executive session to discuss Regent Committee leadership, investment policy, and a confidential donor opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. McCarter, Jr.
Chair