

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a videoconference meeting on September 9, 2020.

Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair Dr. Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey, and Committee member David M. Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were Secretary Lonnie Bunch, Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear, Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Kate Forester, Special Assistant to the Regents Mallory Gianola (recorder), General Counsel Judith Leonard, Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer Meroë Park, and Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson.

CALL TO ORDER

Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the July 14, 2020, meeting without modification.

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2021 FEDERAL AND TRUST CONSOLIDATED BUDGET

The Secretary presented the fiscal year 2021 federal and trust consolidated budget for the Committee’s consideration. Secretary Bunch noted that the Institution will likely begin fiscal year 2021 operating under a Continuing Resolution (“CR”). The Smithsonian’s fiscal year 2021 federal appropriation request is \$1,110.3 million, which includes \$820.3 million for Salaries and Expenses and \$290 million for Facilities Capital. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the budget on behalf of the Board of Regents because approval is required prior to the next meeting of the Board.

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

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the budget of appropriated funds for fiscal year 2021 when signed into law by the President, the institutional budget for Trust funds for fiscal year 2021 reflected in this report, and authorizes expenditures by the Secretary in accordance therewith. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 FEDERAL BUDGET REQUEST TO OMB

The Secretary also briefed the Committee on the fiscal year 2022 federal budget request to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”). The Smithsonian is requesting a total of \$1,183.1 million for its fiscal year 2022 federal budget, inclusive of \$893.1 million for Salaries and Expenses. The request includes funding for the Smithsonian’s COVID-19 new normal and facilities operations, and \$290 million in Facilities Capital to address the rebuilding of the National Air and Space Museum and the Historic Core, which encompasses the Smithsonian Institution Building (“Castle”) and the Arts and Industries Building. The Committee was asked to approve the fiscal year 2022 federal budget request to OMB on behalf of the full Board because it is due on September 14, 2020, prior to the Board meeting in October.

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

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the Smithsonian Institution’s budget request for appropriated funds for fiscal year 2022 for presentation to the Office of Management and Budget. Any material changes in program plans incorporated into this budget shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Regents or its Executive Committee.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Chief of Staff to the Regents Porter Wilkinson led a discussion on the agenda and format of the upcoming meeting of the Board of Regents to be held on October 19, 2020. The Committee discussed the need to utilize a virtual format for the Board meeting in light of COVID-19 and also considered the possibility of hosting the Regents’ annual public forum virtually.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Lonnie Bunch gave an update on the state of the Smithsonian and briefed the Committee on the Smithsonian’s phased reopening strategy; New Normal; Race, Community, and Our Shared Future Initiative; and the American Women’s History Initiative.

The Secretary outlined the Smithsonian’s phased reopening progress. The National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, and the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., reopened to the public on July 24, with new health and safety measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Smithsonian Gardens and the Hirshhorn Museum’s outdoor sculpture garden reopened on August 17. The Secretary highlighted the next tranche of museums that are scheduled to open in September and changes to the visitor experience. The Committee discussed progression and regression criteria, and staff capacity necessary to safely operate the museums in both Washington, D.C. and New York.

The Secretary shared initial recommendations from the New Normal Committee. The recommendations focus on acting as a cohesive organization that leverages expertise across

the Smithsonian, being nimble and bold in thought and operations to allow the Institution to adapt quickly to the changing environment, and knowing all audiences and making strategic, data-driven decisions in everything the Smithsonian undertakes. The Secretary will provide the full report to the Board at the October meeting.

The Secretary also updated the Committee on plans to launch the Race, Community, and Our Shared Future Initiative. The initiative will be a multi-platform effort that helps the nation have critical local conversations about race. The initiative will eventually include the launch of a website, app, and online educational resources. One feature will be a series of virtual Town Hall conversations around the country among global and national leaders in civil rights, social justice, and economic mobility to engage communities across the country on issues relating to race and equity.

Secretary Bunch concluded his report by highlighting digital programming recently presented through the American Women's History Initiative. To mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and National Archives collaborated on a social media count down with #19SuffrageStories to share voting-rights history drawn from the collections of all three institutions. The Secretary also shared progress of *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*, a signature exhibition at the National Museum of American History, designed to travel through the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, which will explore how girls have been on the front lines of social and cultural change. The exhibition, which was scheduled to open in June 2020 and was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will now open in fall 2020 and tour from 2023 through 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then entered into an executive session at approximately 2:54 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and Regent committee memberships.

EMAIL BALLOT

The Executive Committee voted to approve the following motion on behalf of the Board of Regents, according to Board Bylaw 3.01, because the Board was not in session. The withdrawal was requested for immediate use of funds, and therefore required approval prior to the October 19, 2020, Board meeting. The motion was approved via email ballot completed on August 31, 2020.

VOTED that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Regents pursuant to Board Bylaw 3.01, approves the withdrawal, if necessary, of up to \$6.8 million from the National Zoological Park's unrestricted Endowment to fund trust operation during impact of COVID-19.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair