

## **MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2020, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a videoconference meeting on July 14, 2020. Participating were Board and Executive Committee Chair Steve Case, Vice Chair 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, 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 11:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

### **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the May 27, 2020, meeting without modification.

### **COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW**

The Committee reviewed its Charter per its mandate to annually review and assess the Charter and evaluate the Committee’s performance with respect to the requirements of the Charter. No modifications to the Charter were proposed.

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft agenda for the upcoming special meeting of the Board of Regents, scheduled for August 11, 2020. The Board will convene a special videoconference meeting to receive updates on key matters at the Smithsonian, including the status of the phased reopening, the Institution’s new normal, a Virtual Smithsonian, and major initiatives such as the “Race, Community, and Our Shared Future” initiative and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Secretary Lonnie Bunch provided an update on the state of the Smithsonian and briefed the Committee on his work focused around reopening plans, the “Race, Community, and Our Shared Future” initiative, and Congressional engagement. The Secretary outlined the Smithsonian’s plans for a phased reopening. The reopening strategy has been guided by the White House’s and CDC’s three-phased approach based on public health and scientific

indicators, and *Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors*, published by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, which specifically discusses museums, other facilities, and events comparable to those at the Smithsonian. Secretary Bunch shared early scenarios for reopening two locations to the public: the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, and the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. The Secretary highlighted the gating considerations and guidelines that will be used by the Smithsonian to enter each phase of reopening and changes to the visitor experience. The Committee discussed the potential for the reopening to be halted, or regress, by an increase in COVID-19 cases and local, state, or Federal reclosures.

The Secretary also updated the Committee on his continued work on the “Race, Community and Our Shared Future” initiative, which was made possible through a \$25 million commitment from founding partner, Bank of America. The Secretary shared preliminary terms of the gift agreement and informed the Committee of additional corporate partners that have shown interest in supporting the initiative. A leadership team and advisory council are being formed to oversee and guide the development and eventual launch of programming and events.

Secretary Bunch concluded his report by briefing the Committee on Congressional engagement. Since the COVID-19 global health crisis began, the Office of Government Relations and the Secretary have provided regular updates to key Congressional and Administration staff. Meetings have focused on items such as stimulus funding, the launch of Smithsonian Cares, changes in Trust operations to mitigate COVID-19 impacts, and COVID-19 impacts related to the decreased scale and scope of ongoing major capital projects, like the National Air and Space Museum rebuilding.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to consider and no request for an executive session, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Case, Chair