

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AFTERNOON MEETING

The Executive Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) held a meeting on January 12, 2017, in the Secretary’s Parlor at the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, DC. Participating were Executive Committee and Board Chair John W. McCarter, Jr; Vice Chair Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson; and Member David Rubenstein.

Also present by invitation of the Committee were secretary Skorton; Counselor to the Chief Justice Jeffrey P. Minear; Chief of Staff to the Secretary Greg Bettwy; Office of the Regents Senior Researcher & Writer Jennifer Ehlinger (recorder); 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 1:25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the draft minutes of the November 21, 2016, and the December 13, 2016, meetings without modification.

UPDATE ON THE ARTS & INDUSTRIES BUILDING

Secretary Skorton provided the Committee with an update on plans for the future use of the Arts & Industries Building. Director of the Arts & Industries Building Rachel Goslins is moving forward with ideas to develop two different spaces within the building, each providing a valuable and informative visitor experience. The current concept for the first space is a gallery to educate and inspire visitors about the impact of creativity and innovation on society. The installation would be highly interactive, participatory, and engaging, and serve as a space for public programming, conferences, seminars, and trainings. The concept for the second space, which is located adjacent to the innovation space, is that of a Smithsonian American Latino Gallery. The gallery would provide a landing spot for the Latino American experience on the National Mall and act as a point of entry for Latino-related content in other Smithsonian collections. Ms. Goslins has been working with the Smithsonian Latino Center on the concept and design for the gallery. A design firm has been hired to help develop and illustrate the concepts for both spaces and an Innovation Project Team has been assembled.

The Committee discussed the Smithsonian’s current federal budget and alternative sources of possible funding in order to support the build-out for each of the conceptualized galleries.

COMMITTEE TRANSITION

Next, Mr. McCarter lead a discussion on the upcoming leadership transition for the Board and Executive Committee, which will take effect following the Regents’ meeting on January 30,

2017. Mr. Rubenstein has been briefed on the state of the Smithsonian and is ready to assume the role of Chair. Similarly, Steve Case and Risa J. Lavizzo-Mourey are poised and ready to assume their roles of Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member, respectively. The Committee and the management team expect a smooth transition to ensue.

UPDATE ON LONDON OPPORTUNITY

Secretary Skorton then provided an update on the Smithsonian’s potential collaboration with the Victoria & Albert Museum (“V&A”) in London, including a confidential donor opportunity. In June 2016, the Smithsonian and the V&A announced plans to pursue an international collaboration as part of the redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Since then, teams from each organization have worked together to develop the programmatic strategies, business model, and terms of a formal agreement.

The Board will be presented with a draft “Heads of Terms” (non-binding agreement) for review at the January Regents’ meeting, which will form the basis for a formal, binding agreement. Should the Board vote to approve the non-binding agreement, the Secretary and his designees will move forward and continue work with the V&A to develop the formal contract, which will outline the specific terms for the collaboration. Once the formal contract is complete, it will be presented to the Board or the Executive Committee for final review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee then entered into an executive session at approximately 11:40 a.m. to receive an update on personnel matters related to the staffing of several senior positions at the Smithsonian and to discuss the Secretary’s annual performance evaluation for fiscal year 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. McCarter, Jr.
Chair