Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Meeting of the Executive & Governance Committee

Tuesday, 21 November 2017, 5:00pm

Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Michael J. Schewel, President & Chair

Dr. Monroe E. Harris, Jr., Executive Vice President

Ivan Jecklin, *via conference*

Kenneth S. Johnson, Sr.

H. Hiter Harris III, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges

Stephen Bonadies

Lee Anne Chesterfield

Jody Green

Jan Hatchette

Laura Keller

Hossein Sadid

Michael Taylor

Kimberly Wilson

Laura MacDonald

Diana Duke Duncan

Absent:

Marty Barrington

Terrell Luck Harrigan

John A. Luke, Jr.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Michael J. Schewel called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL Mike Schewel (2 min.)

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Ken Johnson and seconded by Mr. Monroe Harris to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2017 meeting of the Executive & Governance Committee as distributed.

1. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Schewel reported that new trustees—Mr. David Goode, Ms. Janet Geldzahler, and Ms. Pamela J. Royal—had been appointed to the board. Mr. Schewel then thanked the executive committee members for attending the opening events for *Terracotta Army*.

1. REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION

Foundation Board President Hiter Harris reported that the Foundation’s search for the Chief Development Officer is ongoing. Additionally, Mr. Harris noted that the endowment portfolio is doing well. Mr. Harris stated that the Foundation plans to report less in the coming year and focus on adding energy and creative speakers to its meeting schedule. Additionally, the Foundation has developed an Advancement Committee which is energizing the board to fundraise for the museum through interactive and hands-on meetings throughout the museum.

1. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DISCUSSION

Director Nyerges introduced Ms. Laura MacDonald of Benefactor Group to give an update on VMFA’s early stages of the capital campaign. Ms. MacDonald noted that the group has been working for a year to start the campaign process and establish its goals and timeline for VMFA. Currently, a taskforce meeting will be held in early January of 2018 to review the status of the campaign. Interviews and leadership briefings will be forthcoming in the spring and summer of 2018. A report will be presented to the taskforce in the fall of 2018.

Benefactor is currently working on the case for support for VMFA. Ms. MacDonald reported that they plan to show the case for support to 40-50 people as a test group to see if they would be willing to support VMFA. The capital campaign aims to add to the endowment. The capital campaign funds should also cover the expansion of galleries, special events spaces, and exhibition spaces. Ms. Diana Duke Duncan, also of Benefactor Group, noted that the funds raised will also be used to pay for the campaign itself.

1. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Nyerges updated the committee on the Terracotta Army exhibition and noted that Ms. Jan Hatchette, Deputy Director for Communications, is doing a wonderful job. Attendance is at 10,000 to date. VMFA has granted free admission for state employees, $10 tickets for members of their family, and $5 tickets for their children. VMFA has also added teachers to this opportunity.

Director Nyerges reported that the *Hear My Voice* exhibition has an attendance goal of 55,000 – 60,000 and has already reached 47,000 and surpassed its fundraising goals. The Virginia Commission for the Arts has bestowed VMFA with their Cultural Icon Award, which is a top honor for the museum.

Mr. Nyerges noted that the full board will receive a report on the space study at the meeting in December. This information will cover the expected space needs for the next 10 to 20 years. The projected number is roughly 101,000 square feet to be added to the Lewis and Mellon galleries.

He also stated that the Government Relations position will be filled in early 2018; VMFA has already received many great applications and the interview process will be underway shortly.

1. CLOSED SESSION

At 5:47pm the meeting went into closed session with the following motion.

**Motion:** Proposed by Mr. Schewel that the meeting go into closed session and seconded by Mr. Johnson under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3711 (A) subsection (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss a personnel matter which is not public.

At 6:05pm, the motion proposed, seconded and carried, the meeting resumed in open session.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Schewel and seconded by Mr. Monroe Harris to come out of closed session and to certify that the closed session was conducted in compliance with Virginia State law.

A roll call vote was taken, the results of which are outlined in the Certification Resolution.

1. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

*\*Public comment will not be received\**

MOTION: Mr. Schewel MEETING: Executive & Governance Committee

SECOND: Mr. Johnson DATE: 21 November 2017

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712 (A) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive Committee hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Executive Committee.

**VOTE**

AYES: Schewel / Harris / Jecklin / Johnson

NAYS: None.

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None.

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Barrington / Harrigan / Luke

Recorded by: Jody Green

Administrative Assistant, Director’s Office

And

Laura Keller

Assistant to the Secretary of the Foundation