

THE LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Library of Virginia

August 28, 2023

LIBRARIAN SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Librarian Search Committee met at 1 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2023, in the Board Room at the Library of Virginia. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in the Orientation Room, but technical difficulties necessitated a change in location. The following committee members were in attendance: C. Paul Brockwell Jr., *chair*; Peter E. Broadbent Jr.; L. Preston Bryant Jr.; Robert L. Canida II; Blythe Ann Scott; and Emily Anne Gullickson, Deputy Secretary of Education and designee of Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education. Mr. Canida and Ms. Scott participated virtually through Zoom. Also in attendance were Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Vanessa Anderson, Human Resources Director; and Taylor Melton, Executive Assistant to the State Librarian.

Mr. Brockwell opened the meeting with introductions and noted that there were enough committee members physically present to constitute a quorum. He then asked if the committee members had any additions or corrections to make to the minutes for the July 12 meeting. There being none, Mr. Brockwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Mr. Broadbent, seconded by Deputy Secretary Gullickson, and approved unanimously by the committee.

Mr. Brockwell recognized Pia Trigiani, president of the Library of Virginia Foundation Board of Directors, and Jack Catlett, member of the Board, to share remarks about the search process for the next Librarian of Virginia. Ms. Trigiani stated that the Foundation understands the importance of selecting the next Librarian and recognizes the tremendous task the committee is undertaking. She emphasized that the Foundation exists to support the Library, which is primarily done through fundraising, and that the Foundation's ability to fundraise is directly tied to the individual who leads the Library. As such, she believes the next Librarian should be able to collaborate with the Foundation in their work, possess fundraising and "friendraising" skills of their own, and be outwardly focused with an ability and drive to make new connections for the Library. Mr. Catlett echoed these points, stating that the selection of the next Librarian is a make-or-break decision that will significantly impact the Foundation's ability to raise funds for the Library. Ms. Trigiani also noted that one of the current Librarian's hopes was to enact a transformative redesign of the Library's facilities to better reflect what it has become. The Foundation has invested significant time and resources into a space planning effort to do just that, but all that work will be for nought, Ms. Trigiani said, if the next Librarian does not possess the leadership capabilities to see the project through.

Mr. Brockwell noted that Ms. Scott had just joined the meeting via Zoom, and that her delayed appearance was due to traffic issues in her area caused by flooding. He then asked if the committee had any questions for Ms. Trigiani and Mr. Catlett. A period of questions and discussion followed. Mr. Broadbent expressed his agreement on how critical the next Librarian

will be on the Foundation's ability to fundraise and stated that the Librarian's capacity to support the Foundation's work will be an important criterion the committee considers when making its selection.

Deputy Secretary Gullickson, on behalf of Secretary Guidera, thanked Ms. Trigiani and Mr. Catlett for attending the committee meeting and sharing their thoughts. She asked for further clarification about the proposed transformation of the library in terms of the space planning work. Ms. Trigiani gave a brief recap of the planning for space renovations that could transform the Library into a more usable and inviting space for its patrons. Mr. Broadbent added that while the building itself is very beautiful and has won several architectural awards, there is much room for improvement in terms of how the space can support programs, events, research, and more. In the interest of time, Mr. Brockwell suggested the Foundation work with the Librarian to provide Deputy Secretary Gullickson a full briefing on this exciting project. Mr. Brockwell thanked both Ms. Trigiani and Mr. Catlett for their time and helpful perspectives with the search committee.

Following the presentation, Mr. Bryant moved that the committee enter a closed meeting to discuss, consider, or interview prospective candidates for employment as Librarian of Virginia; and to consult with legal counsel employed or retained by the committee on specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Mr. Broadbent seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously to enter closed session.

Once the committee returned from closed session, Mr. Bryant moved that the committee certify by roll call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open business meeting requirements, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were, here, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body. Mr. Broadbent seconded the motion.

Before the vote, Mr. Brockwell asked if any member of the committee believed that there was a departure from the requirement of the clauses Mr. Bryant cited in the motion. There being none, he asked Mr. Melton to call roll for the vote: Ayes – Mr. Broadbent, Mr. Brockwell, Mr. Bryant, Dr. Canida, Ms. Gullickson, Ms. Scott; Nos – None; Abstentions – None.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Brockwell adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m.