

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the  
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control

April 11, 2016

The Special Meeting of the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control was held in the Meeting Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Main Library at 301 W. Congress St. on Monday, April 11, 2016. Yung-Hsing Wu, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**I. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Adele Blue, Suzanne Dardeau, Andrew Duhon, Amy Goode, Joseph Gordon-Wiltz, Jamal Taylor, Joan Wingate, Yung-Hsing Wu

Board Members Absent: none

Administrative Staff Present: Sona Dombourian, Director; Teresa Elberson, Assistant Director; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager; Tammy Parker Pratt, Assistant City-Parish Attorney

Consultants: Dan Bradbury and Karen Miller of Bradbury Associates attended via Skype

Members of the Public: attending for all or part of the meeting were various library staff members, several Library Foundation members, a former library director, a former board member, and a member of the public not currently affiliated with the library.

**II. Introductory Comments**

Dr. Wu stated that the purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion on the three finalists for the position of Library Director – Adam Brooks, Juliet Machie, and Michael Golrick. The Board was waiting on the completion of background checks on the three candidates. Those have now been received. She welcomed Tammy Parker Pratt, an assistant city/parish attorney, who is attending to address any questions that may arise regarding the open meetings law, especially the appropriate use of an executive session. She also thanked the Friends, Foundation, and staff for their support and patience as the Board works through the process of selecting the new Director.

Dr. Wu asked Ms. Pratt to address the appropriateness of discussing background checks in public session vs. an Executive Session. Ms. Pratt stated that some specific information contained in the background check might have some implication on individuals' privacy rights and, in her opinion, would be more appropriately discussed in an Executive Session. Dr. Wu stated that she has received the background checks via email and would distribute the information in the Executive Session.

Dr. Dardeau asked if the comments and feedback from staff, Friends, and Foundation that the consultants had summarized during the Executive Session at the last meeting could be made available to the Board. Ms. Miller stated she would upload those files to the Dropbox for the Board to access.

### **III. Discussion of finalist candidates**

Dr. Wu stated that the Library Board may go into Executive Session to discuss the character and professional competence of each applicant in accordance with La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), and accordingly, any applicant may require that discussion of his/her character and professional competence be held in open session. Ms. Pratt added that in regards to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), the session is to discuss the character and professional competence of an individual.

A motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with the law to discuss the character and professional competence of the applicants was made by Andrew Duhon. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Dardeau.

Yeas: Blue, Dardeau, Duhon, Goode, Gordon-Wiltz, Taylor, Wingate, Wu  
Nays: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: none

The motion to go into Executive Session was approved. The Board, Ms. Pratt, and (via Skype) the consultants adjourned to the Board Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for the Executive Session at 5:40 p.m.

A motion to return from Executive Session was made by Andrew Duhon. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Dardeau.

Yeas: Blue, Dardeau, Duhon, Goode, Gordon-Wiltz, Taylor, Wingate, Wu  
Nays: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: none

The motion to return from Executive Session was approved. The Open Meeting resumed at 6:47 p.m.

### **IV. Selection of Library Director**

A motion to send back to Bradbury Associates a request for more applicants for the position of Library Director at no additional cost to the Library was made by Jamal Taylor. The motion was seconded by Joseph Gordon-Wiltz. Mr. Duhon requested to make an alternate motion. After discussion, Ms. Pratt stated that the motion on the floor should be acted upon before additional motions. Mr. Duhon stated that he was not going to support Mr. Taylor's motion, as he felt that there is a viable candidate for the position. Mr. Taylor indicated that there were several applicants who each had something to offer, but that there was no rush to fill the position, and that, based on the information the Board has, the Board should wait to get a candidate who is absolutely right for the position. There were no other comments from the Board. Dr. Wu called for public comment on the motion. There was none.

Yeas: Gordon-Wiltz, Taylor  
Nays: Blue, Dardeau, Duhon, Goode, Wingate, Wu

Abstain: none

Absent: none

The motion to request additional candidates for the position from Bradbury Associates failed. The vote was 2 in favor and 6 against.

A motion to make an offer of employment to Adam Brooks for the Library Director was made by Andrew Duhon. The motion was seconded by Adele Blue.

Dr. Wu stated that Bradbury Associates, as consultant, would be handling the negotiations with the finalist chosen for the position. There were no additional comments from the Board. There was no comment from the public.

Yeas: Blue, Dardeau, Duhon, Goode, Wingate, Wu

Nays: Taylor

Abstain: Gordon-Wiltz

Absent: none

The motion to make an offer of employment as Library Director to Adam Brooks through the consulting firm of Bradbury Associates was approved. The vote was 6 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

**V. Adjournment:**

Jamal Taylor made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Dardeau. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary