

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Director's Search Committee

March 14, 2016

A meeting of the Director's Search Committee was held in the Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 W. Congress St. on Monday, March 14, 2016. Yung-Hsing Wu, President of the Board and Search Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04p.m.

I. Roll Call

Search Committee Members Present: Suzanne Dardeau (arrived 5:45), Joseph Gordon-Wiltz, Jean Kreamer, Kay Theunissen, Yung-Hsing Wu

Search Committee Members Absent: Andrew Duhon

Consultant: Karen Miller, Bradbury Associates

Non-Search Committee Library Board Members Present: Adele Blue, Amy Goode (arrived 5:16), Joan Wingate

Administrative Staff Present: Sona Dombourian, Director; Teresa Elberson, Library Administrator; Larry Angelle, Library Operations Manager

Members of the Public: various library staff members including Chuck Savoy, Adam Melancon, Amy Wander, Lorita Brock, Terry Roy, Benton St. Romain, Jason Gilbert, Lisa Cotton were present during some or all of the meeting. Library Foundation President Bettie Sonnier and member of the public Sheldon Blue were also in attendance.

II. Introductory Comments

Dr. Wu thanked the Search Committee for their hard work and called on Karen Miller with Bradbury Associates to discuss the schedule for the evening, the procedures, and the questions to be asked. Ms. Miller suggested Committee Members introduce themselves to the candidate before asking their question during the interviews. Follow up questions from any committee member is fine, and the committee was reminded that no interview will go beyond thirty minutes and ideally that would include five minutes for the candidate to ask the Search Committee any questions. Discussion on the wording of questions was held. The order of questions and who would ask each question was determined. Ms. Miller clarified that questions and follow up will only be asked by the Search Committee.

The committee reviewed the questions for the candidates. Question 1 was asked by Dr. Wu. Question 2 was modified from the list to add the word 'your' between "exemplify" and "executive" and was asked by Mr. Gordon-Wiltz. Question 3 was modified to add at the end of the second part ", and how will you, as director, interface with local political bodies" and was asked by Mrs. Theunissen. Question 4 was modified to remove the first two sentences and was asked by Dr. Kreamer. Question 5 was asked by Mr. Gordon-Wiltz. Question 6 was asked by Mrs. Theunissen. Question 7 was asked by Dr. Kreamer. Question 8 was asked by Dr. Wu. Question 9 was asked of Candidate Lyshol by Dr. Wu and of the remaining candidates by Dr. Dardeau.

III. Interviews via Skype of Candidates for the Position of Library Director

A. 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Linda Lyshol was asked, and responded to, the nine questions. Following the Search Committee questions, Ms. Lyshol asked about the

range of years for the library's long-range master plan on the web site; she asked what did community outreach and involvement mean to the Board and staff, and if this referred to an embedded librarian; and what is the organizational culture of the library.

- B. 6:10 p.m. – 6:40p.m. –Michael Golrick was asked, and responded to, the nine questions. Following the Search Committee questions, Mr. Golrick asked the most important characteristic that the Board is looking for in a new director. He also asked for the Board's vision about the branches, has there been any reaction to closing branches with the opening of the new regionals, and that he observed there seem to be branch libraries on the border of the parish and asked if there were opportunities, challenges, or political issues related to this.
- C. 6:50 p.m. – 7:20 p.m. – Juliet Machie was asked, and responded to, the nine questions. Following the Search Committee questions, Ms. Machie asked what they were the most proud of with the Library system and what improvements they would like to see to the Library.
- D. 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Allison Barron was asked, and responded to, the nine questions. No time remained following the Search Committee questions for any questions by Mr. Barron. He was directed by Ms. Miller to email any questions he may have to her.

IV. Comments from the Public about these Candidates

Amy Goode, member of the Library Board who was not on the Search Committee, stated that she was impressed with the candidates and responses. She said she felt that there was an issue she wished there had been more time to pursue, which would be the communication between city officials, including other departments, and the Board, especially as it pertained to construction issues and decisions that were made without the Board being aware or having input.

There were no other comments from the public.

V. Reminder of the next meeting

Dr. Wu reminded everyone that the next meeting was the next evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library, same room to conduct the remaining semi-finalist interviews, discuss the candidates, and rank or select candidates to recommend to the Board as finalists for the position.

VI. Adjournment

Jean Kreamer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kay Theunissen. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sona J. Dombourian, Secretary