



Attendance: F. Olanipekun-Lewis, Chair; D. Allie; A. Appulingam; J. Benoliel; J. Chizick-Agüero; J. Cooper; P. Dembe; M. DiBerardinis; T. Dichter; C. Figueroa; D. Generals; D. Gould; R. Heim; D. Moore; M. Rashed; S. Simons; J. St. Geme; M. Stitt; E. Tomlin

Staff: L. Walker; J. Benford; D. Henderson; C. Kowalski; J. Pecora; J. Zimmer

I. Call to Order and Chair’s Remarks – F. Olanipekun-Lewis

F. Olanipekun-Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed the Board. She stated the Board would move into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, deliberation on selection the of President & Director for the Free Library of Philadelphia and for the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation. She noted the Board would then recommence the meeting to carry out the vote for the President & Director.

II. Executive Session: Personnel Matter – F. Olanipekun-Lewis

a. Deliberation on the Selection of President & Director

F. Olanipekun-Lewis called for a motion to commence an Executive Session. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

III. Recommence Open Meeting – F. Olanipekun-Lewis

The meeting was called to order after the concluding of the Executive Session at 10:59 a.m.

IV. Resolution to Select the President & Director – R. Heim and F. Olanipekun-Lewis

a. Action Item: Vote to Accept the Resolution

F. Olanipekun-Lewis read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, section V of the bylaws states the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Director, who serves as the executive and administrative officer of the Board of Trustees and of the Free Library; and

WHEREAS, appointing a Director is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Library is an important cornerstone of the Philadelphia community with a mission to advance literacy, guide learning, and inspire curiosity; and

WHEREAS, the Library is seeking an outstanding leader with a deep commitment to community engagement and equity who will establish trusted, collaborative relationships with various constituencies to ensure the diverse needs and concerns of all library users are accurately represented and who will provide thoughtful direction to staff and leverage their expertise to the fullest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the Board formed a Search Committee comprised of various stakeholders including staff and members of the Friends of the Free Library and the Committee selected Isaacson Miller to facilitate the search process; and

WHEREAS, three candidates were selected by the Committee to be presented to the Board as these candidates possess the experience, the skill set, and the qualifications to excel as the Director; and

WHEREAS, the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Robert Heim and Sade Olanipekun-Lewis, led the deliberation of the candidates with the Board; and

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board having given full consideration to three excellent candidates selects Kelly Richards to be the next Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia subject to satisfying all additional requirements of employment with the City of Philadelphia.

A motion was made to accept the resolution. J. Chizick-Agüero led a roll call vote:

Donna Allie - Yea

Api Appulingam, PE - Yea

Jenée Chizick-Agüero, Secretary - Yea

D. Jeffrey Benoliel, Ex-Officio – Non-voting Member

Jeffrey Cooper, Vice Chair - Yea

Honorable Pamela Dembe - Yea

Michael DiBerardinis - Yea

Tobey Gordon Dichter - Yea

Donald Generals, Treasurer- Yea

David Gould - Yea

Robert C. Heim - Yea

H.W. Jerome Maddox - Absent

Donald E. Moore - Yea

Folasade A. Olanipekun-Lewis, Chair - Yea

Mustafa Rashed - Yea

Sonia Sanchez - Absent

Suzanne Simons, Vice Chair - Yea

Joseph W. St. Geme, MD - Yea

Matthew Stitt - Yea

Elaine Tomlin – Yea

With the acceptance of the resolution, F. Olanipekun-Lewis stated Kelly Richards will serve as President & Director pending his acceptance of the position and satisfying additional requirements of employment with the City of Philadelphia.

F. Olanipekun-Lewis called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.