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Description of document: Smithsonian Institution (SI) Meeting Minutes of the Advisory Board of the National Museum of the American Indian 2015

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# Smithsonian Institution

Office of General Counsel

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## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 18, 2021

RE: Your Request for Smithsonian Records (request number 48727)

This responds to your request, dated June 14, 2017, and received in this Office on June 23, 2017, for “a copy of the meeting minutes from the National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees, during the time period 2012 to present.” On April 13-14, 2021, you agreed to narrow the scope of your request to meeting minutes from the National Museum of the American Indian dated January 1, 2012-December 31, 2015. The Smithsonian responds to requests for records in accordance with Smithsonian Directive 807 – Requests for Smithsonian Institution Information (SD 807) and applies a presumption of disclosure when processing such requests. The policy is posted on our website at <http://www.si.edu/OGC/Records-Requests>.

Enclosed are 19 pages of material constituting minutes of meetings of the National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees in 2015. Please note that the minutes you requested for 2012-2014 are not available in electronic format, and the Smithsonian is currently unable to search for physical records while teleworking, as noted on our SD 807 website, <https://www.si.edu/ogc/records-requests>.

Please be advised that certain information has been redacted from the enclosed documents consistent with SD 807. Information related to certain fundraising and donor-related activities has been redacted consistent with SD 807 under Exemption 4, where release of the information would likely impair the Smithsonian’s ability to raise private funds. Certain predecisional and deliberative information has been redacted consistent with SD 807 under Exemption 5. Finally, personal information, such as donor-identifying information, has been redacted consistent with SD 807 under Exemption 6, where disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of a third party with no overriding public interest.

This concludes the Smithsonian’s response to your request. Thank you for your interest in the Smithsonian.

Best Wishes,



David Larson  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

You have the right to appeal a partial or full denial of your request. Your appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Smithsonian Institution Office of General Counsel at the address below, [SIRecordsReq@si.edu](mailto:SIRecordsReq@si.edu), or (202) 357-4310 (fax number), and made within sixty days from the date of this response letter. Your letter must explain your reason(s) for the appeal. The Smithsonian Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer will decide your appeal and will respond to you in writing. You also have the right to request mediation services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), within the National Archives and Records Administration, to resolve disputes about the withholding of information. Your request for mediation should include language authorizing OGIS to make inquiries on your behalf, including the right to review all documentation that OGIS deems necessary regarding your request. You should note that you understand that any documents you provide to OGIS, except those provided in confidence, may be copied and forwarded to Smithsonian Institution officials as a part of the dispute resolution process.

**National Museum of the American Indian**  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Friday, February 20, 2015  
Minutes

Call to order at 11:07 a.m.

**Trustees in Attendance:**

Governor Bill Anoatubby  
Kim Baird  
danah boyd  
Margie Brown  
Brenda Child  
Kristopher Easton  
John Ernst

Sven Haakanson  
LaDonna Harris  
Richard Kurin  
Andrew Lee  
Richard Luarkie  
Lance Morgan  
Deborah Parker

Brian Patterson  
Brenda Pipestem  
Valerie Rowe  
Loretta Tuell  
Deacon Turner  
Patricia Zell

**Absent:**

Haunani Apoliona  
Al Horvath  
Victor Montejo  
Gregory Pyle

**Staff in Attendance:**

Kelly Bennett  
Cara Fama  
Kevin Gover  
Tim Johnson

Angela Leipold  
Cameron McGuire  
Machel Monenerkit

David Penney  
Jane Sledge

Brenda Toineeta Pipestem welcomed the Trustees to the first meeting of the New Year and requested that Trustee Deborah Parker offer a blessing for the day's activities.

The Trustees moved into Executive Session with the Director during which time the Chair provided her report.

**NMAI Exhibitions and the National Education Initiative**

Kevin Gover gave a presentation on the upcoming exhibitions at the NMAI and described how the content of those exhibitions will drive the curriculum development for the National Education Initiative. The major theme of the NMAI's exhibition program is to teach the real stories of Native American history which will translate into providing teachers with the tools they need to be effective in the classroom.

Discussion points included the identification of the various audiences beyond those who are already sympathetic to the NMAI cause and their associated strategies.

### **Update from Edelman Communications**

Laura Gentles, Executive Vice President with Edelman, provided an update to the report given during the September 2014 presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Media highlights include positive reviews for *Nation to Nation* and *Glittering World* from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, coverage in Native American media, *Nation to Nation* Symposium coverage on C-SPAN; online features with *Town & Country*, *Gothamist*, *Architectural Digest* and *Forbes*.

Social media results include 30,000 new Facebook fans and 1.8 million Twitter impressions for *Nation to Nation*.

Paid media results include Exemption 4

Upcoming projects include more paid media and email acquisition; promotion of *Inka Road* and *Ceramics* and the National Education Initiative.

### **Governance Committee Report**

Andrew Lee brought forward a motion to nominate William Butler to the NMAI Board of Trustees. John Ernst seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.

The Governance Committee added Patricia Zell to its roster.

The Governance Committee recommended the following actions:

1. Staff will Exemption 5.
2. Staff will Exemption 5
3. Staff will Exemption 5

### **Policy and Budget Committee Report**

Lance Morgan reported that the committee will review their charter to focus on policy understanding regarding influence in budget decisions.

At the August Meeting, staff will identify the endowments over which the Trustees have responsibility.

### **Repatriation Committee Report**

Margaret Brown reported that the committee reviewed the history of the repatriation policy, claim history, consultation process and sacred objects discussions for the new members of the committee.

The Repatriation Committee recommended the following actions:

1. NMAI staff will Exemption 5

2. Kevin Gover will Exemption 5

### **Scholarship and Collections Committee Report**

Brenda Child reported that the committee discussed the NMAI's collecting strategy and its long range plans. A follow-up conversation will occur at the August Meeting.

The Scholarship and Collections Committee set several goals for their committee work for the year ahead, specifically identifying the following:

1. The Committee would like to see the NMAI collections more accessible to the tribes.
2. The Committee would like to make good use of the committee members where they can be supportive to staff, and will look forward to the NAISA conference as an additional place to connect.
3. The Committee announced that an oral history project on the beginnings of the NMAI (from the Museum of the American, Heye Foundation) and the book that will feature Patricia Zell/Julie Johnson Kidd will be discussed at the August meeting.

### **Advancement Committee Report**

Governor Anoatubby reviewed the points of discussion from the agenda in the committee. The work of the Advancement Committee is to develop fundraising strategies with the staff and to participate in fundraising activities through personal action and advocacy. As such, the committee set forth the following goals and recommendations:

1. The Advancement Committee acts as a liaison between the Campaign Cabinet and the Trustees.
2. Committee members are available to review major foundation proposals.
3. Committee members will assist with Exemption 4
4. The Committee discussed and supports Exemption 4
5. The NMAI needs to raise Exemption 4 a part of the Smithsonian Campaign.
6. The Committee will schedule call to follow up on its goals

The Board of Trustees then went into executive session and adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

## National Museum of the American Indian

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 7, 2015, Chicago, IL

### **Trustees in Attendance:**

Kim Baird  
danah boyd  
Bill Butler  
Brenda Child  
Kristopher Easton  
Bill Frist  
Andrew Lee  
Richard Luarkie  
Victor Montejo  
Lance Morgan  
Brian Patterson  
Brenda Pipestem  
Valerie Rowe  
Loretta Tuell  
Deacon Turner  
Patricia Zell

### **Absent:**

Governor Bill Anoatubby  
Haunani Apoliona  
Margie Brown  
Sven Haakanson  
LaDonna Harris  
Richard Kurin  
Deborah Parker  
Gregory Pyle  
David Skorton

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Kelly Bennett  
Cara Fama  
Kevin Gover  
Tim Johnson  
Angela Leipold  
Cameron McGuire  
David Penney  
Denise Robinson Simms  
Jane Sledge  
Hannah Wendling

Chair Brenda Toineeta Pipestem called the meeting to order at 8:30 with a roll call of attendees.

Brian Patterson offered a prayer on behalf of the attendees. Brief introductions of attendees were offered for the benefit of new members. Secretary Andrew Lee made a motion to approve the minutes from February offered for review in the distributed meeting materials. danah boyd seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair called for an **Executive Session** with the Director at 8:43.

**Chair Report** and full meeting resumed at 9:10.

Ms. Pipestem called attention to the leaner meeting materials that were distributed for this meeting in an effort to meet the request for information related to the agenda at hand, rather than broader reporting. Additionally, a new format will be adopted for future meetings, with committee work accomplished in advance via teleconference to allow for more focused meeting sessions of a half day for committee meetings and full day for the full Board agenda. For the November 5-6 agenda, all committees except the Repatriation Committee should complete work ahead of the meeting, as the day scheduled for committee meetings will be reserved for a training session by Board Source regarding governance and fundraising. The Repatriation Committee will plan to meet on the afternoon of November 4.

Ms. Pipestem provided an update regarding plans for the NMAI-NY Gala on May 11, 2016 and encouraged Trustees to provide contact information for potential Gala sponsors. The Board of Trustees meeting in May is scheduled to coincide with the Gala, and half day of committee meetings will be held on May 11, with the full board session on May 12.

Ms. Pipestem provided update on her activities, including participation in the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) meeting, and also grateful acknowledgement of a donor cultivation event hosted by [Exemption 4]. Mr. and Mrs. [Ex. 4] have offered their new home in Santa Fe for an event in August 2016 to coincide with Indian Market and the Executive Committee meeting.

**Director's Report, 9:15 AM**

Mr. Gover summarized the exhibition activities of the past year as a reflection of the new direction of the museum. The critical response to these endeavors have been very positive. During the course of a year, 2 of the 3 inaugural exhibitions at the NMAI-DC have been taken down, and adjustments to the installation calendar have made more room in the schedule and budget, which is good given staffing deficits in collections management. Tim Johnson has agreed to lead the Strategic Planning Committee, which will draft a plan for presentation at the August 2016 Executive Committee meeting with final presentation to the full Board of Trustees in November 2016.

The [Exemption 6] has confirmed its gift of [Exemption 6], and the National Education Initiative (NEI) is proceeding.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial project will hold its first public event on October 20 at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) meeting in San Diego. Chickasaw Nation Lt. Governor Keel and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell are the Co-Chairs for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. Board members are encouraged to attend in San Diego if they are able, and also to obtain supporting resolutions from NCAI, USET and other regional tribal organization. Talking points and the schedule of related events at NCAI will be distributed to attendees.

Trustee Deacon Turner was pleased to share the announcement of a sponsorship gift of [Exemption 6] from [Exemption 6] towards the Americans exhibition. Mr. Gover gratefully acknowledged Mr. Turner for his stewardship of that commitment.

When opportunity allows for Trustees to connect with Tribes, corporations and foundations for financial support of the museum, there is a campaign fund that can assist with travel expenses. Staff will develop criteria for selecting the priority situations so that they may also be prepared for coordinated follow up on those efforts.

Mr. Gover was asked if the museum considers exhibition proposals by other entities (tribal museums, etc.). Associate Director Tim Johnson leads the Exhibition Assessment Group (EAG), which reviews many proposals, considering criteria to ensure such exhibitions are on topic for the museum mission, can be accommodated within the existing schedule, and are within the available budget. Examples of this sort of partnership are the Section 14 land exhibition offered by the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. Mr. Gover advised trustees that we are always pleased to receive proposals, but that we turn most of them down because of space, time and budgetary concerns. That said, conversation is always welcome, and we enjoy learning about the work of our colleagues.



Victor Montejo encouraged staff to consider [REDACTED] Exemption 5 [REDACTED]

**Repatriation Committee Report, 10:05 AM**

Ms. Pipestem began the committee reports. With Margaret Brown out for personal reasons, Ms. Pipestem gave the Repatriation Committee report.

Following a summary of committee discussion, Ms. Pipestem conveyed the unanimous recommendation of the Repatriation Committee to Exemption 5 [REDACTED] as outlined in the report from NMAI Staff. The Committee's motion was unanimously approved by the full board.

Ms. Pipestem introduced the next report as a special circumstance in which the committee provided a unanimous recommendation to Exemption 5 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Patterson conveyed his commendation to staff for addressing the claim in a timely manner.

Ms. Pipestem reported the request by the Repatriation Committee for a conversation about international repatriation issues with a visiting expert at a later meeting. Ms. Pipestem also asked that Committee members please tentatively hold the afternoon of November 4 for the Repatriation Committee meeting, as the November agenda is expected to be robust. This timing will be confirmed via email after the Board Chair confers with the Committee Chair.

**Advancement Committee Report, 10:20 AM**

Cameron McGuire provided the Advancement Committee report on behalf of Governor Anoatubby. His presentation was distributed in the meeting materials and provided detail about Phases I, II and III of the Campaign strategy. The development of strategy for the National Native American Veterans Memorial project was a point of robust discussion, with suggestions to coordinate with the Veterans office of each tribe. Additional points of follow up from questions posed during this discussion are listed at the end of the document for staff.

**Governance Committee Report, 10:45 AM**

Mr. Lee provided a review of the Trustee reappointment schedule, emphasizing the need to stay on track to allow for coordination with the SI Regents meeting schedule. Governor Anoatubby, Margaret Brown, Brenda Child, Lance Morgan and Senator Frist are each eligible and recommended by the committee for reappointment to a 3 year term, pending confirmation of their continued interest in serving. Ms. Tuell made the motion to accept the committee recommendation, seconded by Mr. Easton, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gregory Pyle will complete his term and rotate off of the Board of Trustees with the appreciation of the Board and staff for his service to the NMAI.

Mr. Lee announced that there are two openings in the coming year for which the Governance Committee will take recommendations. Additionally, there will be additional positions vacant in the next year. Mr. Lee asked that the trustees please consider additional forms of diversity such as geographical (California, Plains, Latin America and Southeastern United States) and background matter (Tribal Leadership, Corporate Business, International/ Global/ Indigenous representation, or diversity). Mr. Lee will summarize guidance in a memo to the Trustees requesting recommendations of candidates. The Trustees will vote on candidates to fill the two openings by November.

In reviewing committee assignments for the two new Trustees attending this meeting, the Governance Committee recommended that Senator Frist join the Advancement and Policy and Budget Committees, and that Mr. Butler join the Advancement and Collections and Scholarship Committees. Both Senator Frist and Mr. Butler agreed. Mr. Lee completed his report with a look ahead to the November agenda and the plans to review the slate of officers and the recommendations for the class of 2016.

#### **Policy and Budget Committee Report, 11:05 AM**

Mr. Morgan provided the committee report for Policy and Budget, including a recommendation to [REDACTED] **Exemption 5**

[REDACTED]. In editing this document, there was language regarding auditing that does not accurately reflect the duties of the committee. The Smithsonian as a whole is audited by the Inspector General's office, so it seems appropriate to remove auditing language from the committee charter. It was determined to be more appropriate to direct the committee towards strategic planning and budget overview, which would include the review of any regulatory findings by the Inspector General.

Ms. Tuell made a motion to approve the changes to the charter as outlined in the committee working document. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turner and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Morgan reported several action items by the committee:

Ms. Pipestem is authorized to submit a letter to the Smithsonian Regents regarding the NMAI budget for Fiscal Year 2016. This letter will include supportive language regarding the existing NMAI federal allocation and also a reiteration of the importance of NEI as a tie-in to the Presidential Priority for Native Youth (GenI).

Ms. Tuell moved to approve the motion for the letter pending revision by Mr. Gover. The motion was seconded by Mr. Butler and the motion carried unanimously.

In summary, Mr. Morgan asked staff for a bit more guidance in the information reported to the committee. In particular the committee would like to have a better understanding of strategy and position with additional budget history provided in reporting, along with comparative information from other Smithsonian units if applicable. Overall the committee is impressed with

the management decision and strategy that they see, and would like to provide additional guidance where they can be an asset to the museum.

### **Collections and Scholarship Committee Report, 11:15 AM**

Dr. Child provided a summary of committee discussions and actions:

The Collecting Plan (distributed in meeting materials) is a plan for the next decade. The intentions reflected there are both holistic and hemispheric.

The committee would like to request a curatorial presentation to the full board (at a future meeting to be determined as scheduling allows) to provide greater understanding about collecting priorities, process and efforts.

The committee would also like to know more about **Exemption 5**

There were no action items to report, but there is more to come in future meetings.

Mr. Gover spoke about museum planning strategy, describing the next campaign to be about the collections, their care, development and facilities.

### **Old Business, 11:20AM**

Circle of Elders discussion: Circle of Elders is intended to be casual and advisory, to be called upon episodically as needed. In recent years there has only been one occasion that the group has been called upon - **Exemption 5**

. Two members have passed away recently (Billy Frank and Clarence Jackson) which has left a group of 3 members. Membership numbers of 5-7 is ideal, and the Trustees are looking for tribal elders who are able to represent indigenous knowledge. With Trustee membership beginning to trend younger, it would seem that a Circle of Elders group is more relevant and necessary. Trustees will review the charter as there may be additional duties for which the Trustees would rely on Elders (Blessings, meeting attendance as schedule and interests permit, etc.). Any comments on the charter will go to the Policy and Budget Committee and the Governance Committee will take on the responsibility of tracking recommended candidates to ensure that membership is expanded as discussed.

### **New Business**

Patricia Zell reviewed the upcoming events for the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and encouraged Trustees to coordinate with tribes that could be of assistance.

The Trustees decided to continue with Inside Blast as a lunch agenda item at future BOT meetings. The November meeting will include presentations from Dana Boyd and Kim Baird. February, 2016 meeting to include presentations from Richard Luarkie and Deacon Turner.

The group paused for lunch and continued with the outlined agenda during lunch.

**Executive Session, 2:30 PM**

**Meeting Adjourned, 3:53 PM**

**Points of follow up for Trustees:**

- Future meeting agendas will be condensed, and committee work will be expected to be conducted by teleconference going forward.
- Chair to confer with Repatriation Committee Chair regarding schedule (November 4th date in particular) and agenda development.
- Mr. Lee to send memo regarding [REDACTED] Exemption 5

**Points of follow up for staff:**

- Confirm Board training scheduled for November Board meeting, also consider training options for NMAI-NY Board of Directors.
- Tim Johnson to contact [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- Mr. Gover to reach out the David Hurst Thomas at AMNH
- Staff to circulate Veterans Memorial project consultation schedule to Trustees so they can attend where possible.
- Staff to provide talking points for Veterans Memorial project in conjunction with consultation schedule.
- Staff to schedule conference calls regarding the Native Women's Symposium
- Staff to send a survey to trustees as part of meeting follow up to evaluate and provide a forum for feedback.
- [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- [REDACTED]
- Mr. Gover will send a plaque and letter of thanks to Mr. Pyle
- Staff to prepare a list of [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- [REDACTED]
- Mr. Gover to refine the letter to the Regents and prepare for Ms. Pipestem's signature.
- Policy and Budget Committee reporting to [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- [REDACTED]
- Final Revised Policy and Budget Committee Charter to be uploaded to Base Camp
- Curatorial presentation at a future board meeting (Perhaps February at CRC?)
- [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- Collections Plan and Curatorial Council Minutes to be uploaded to Basecamp
- Circulate the existing charter for the Circle of Elders
- Circulate Engagement List for review and follow up.
- Work with [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- [REDACTED]
- Include Insight Blast on future BOT meeting agendas. In November, include Inside Blast on Board Source training day if there is time to give everyone a break. Trustees will coordinate speakers for themselves.

**NEXT MEETING DETAILS:**

November 4 (afternoon): Repatriation Committee Meeting

November 5, approx 9am-4pm: Full Board Training re: Governance and Fundraising

November 5, approx. 4pm-8pm: Kay WalkingStick Exhibition Symposium and Reception.  
November 6, 9am-4pm: Full Board Meeting.

**2016 Meetings:**

February 4-5 in Suitland, MD at the Cultural Resource Center (CRC)

May 11-12 in New York City, NY at NMAI-NY to support NMAI-NY Gala on May 11.

August 17-18 Executive Committee meeting in Santa Fe, NM

October 5-6 in Phoenix, AZ at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) meeting

# National Museum of the American Indian

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 6, 2015, Washington, DC

## Trustees in Attendance:

Kim Baird  
danah boyd  
Margie Brown  
Bill Butler  
Brenda Child  
Kristopher Easton  
LaDonna Harris  
Richard Kurin  
Andrew Lee  
Richard Luarkie  
Victor Montejo  
Brian Patterson  
Brenda Toineeta Pipestem  
Valerie Rowe  
David Skorton  
Loretta Tuell  
Patricia Zell  
Lance Morgan

## Absent:

Governor Bill Anoatubby  
Haunani Apoliona  
Bill Frist  
Sven Haakanson  
Deborah Parker  
Gregory Pyle  
Deacon Turner

## Staff in Attendance:

Kelly Bennett  
Cara Fama  
Kevin Gover  
Cameron McGuire  
Machel Monenerkit  
David Penney  
Jane Sledge

Chair Brenda Toineeta Pipestem called the meeting to order at 9:03 with a roll call of attendees.

Richard Luarkie offered a prayer on behalf of the attendees. Brief introductions of attendees were offered for the benefit of new attendees.

## Secretary's Report and conversation

Dr. David Skorton, Secretary of the Smithsonian and Ex Officio Trustee of NMAI, attended his first Trustees meeting to discuss his vision and priorities for the Smithsonian after his first four months in office. His primary concerns at this time are:

1. Administrative structure of the Smithsonian - the Secretary has recommended **Exemption 5** [redacted]. There is no proposed date for when this **Exemption 5** will be finalized. This would **Exemption 5** [redacted] Act-  
ing Provost Kurin has asked Kevin Gover to serve as a Director-at-Large over the History and Culture units. The goal is to **Exemption 5** [redacted].

2. Workforce - specifically curatorial and professional staff is down in numbers, with budgets controlled through attrition. Secretary Skorton will raise the funds to create 40 five-year term Curator positions. Salaries will be competitive and partnerships with Universities will be key for

attracting candidates to expand the cutting-edge profile of the Smithsonian, renewing the academic capital.

3. Emphasis on STEM learning has led to a concerning de-emphasis of the humanities, specifically History Art and Culture. He would like the Smithsonian to be more assertive in the use of technology to tell our stories. The Secretary has created a Youth Advisory Council, inspired by youth-centered programming within the units.

The Secretary would like to make the best use of the Boards within the Smithsonian and is open to receiving advice. He considers himself a student during his tenure here at Smithsonian, and has already learned a great deal from his visits with Kevin Gover. The Secretary emphasized that he wants to be of service to the units.

The Trustees responded to the Secretary by encouraging [redacted] Exemption 5 [redacted].

Discussion followed regarding how [redacted] Exemption 5 [redacted]. The Secretary [redacted] Exemption 5 [redacted].

Patricia Zell offered a gift on behalf of the Trustees from the Polynesian Voyaging Society for the Secretary as he departed.

Break 10:20-10:34

**Chair Report**

Chair Brenda Toineeta Pipestem acknowledged the closing of this first year together for the new class of Trustees and the closing of the term of service for Patricia Zell.

Chair Pipestem praised the response to the Veterans Memorial Project at the announcement at NCAI in October. There were a lot of good feelings in the room, pledges offered on the spot and lots of personal stories being shared. The National Council meeting in San Diego also went well, nurturing knowledge is rewarding for the members.

It is an important time to pay attention to sovereignty issues as cases like Dollar General are challenging the jurisdiction of Indian governments over Non-Indian people, and headlines feature adoption cases, etc.

There have been some major bright spots with the Secretary's installation and the advancement of the NMAI-NY Gala with assistance from the Gala committee. The Kay WalkingStick events have been an outstanding success.

The Circle of Elders is primed for expansion, which the Governance Committee will focus on before the February board meeting. Former trustees are a potential source for council membership in light of their experience and understanding. There was a suggestion to consider asking a representative from the Kiowa War Mothers.

Chair called for approval of the August meeting minutes. Motion was made by Richard Luarkie and second was offered by Kim Baird. With all in favor and none opposed the motion passed unanimously

**Director's Report, 10:57 AM**

Director Gover spoke about the Directors-at-Large assignment by the Under Secretary (now Acting Provost), and the encouragement to pursue issues as a team. The changes were met with great enthusiasm by the Directors.

The Veteran's Memorial Project is well launched. Only concern is staff capacity to keep up with the enthusiasm of constituents. This project will become a real cause, and there is no shortage to the issues that this project can advocate for. The museum is working with Jackie Pata for a joint program with NCAI. We want to build an accurate brainy program that will catch on like the mascot issue. This is not just an opportunity, it is also an obligation the museum is committed to, and planning is well underway to schedule the 2016 Consultations in at least 12 regions.

Tim Johnson's retirement presents an opportunity to reorganize the largest unit in the museum. Additionally, Senior staff are working on succession planning as a part of the strategic planning for the museum. The strategic plan, Exhibition Advisory Group and Magazine have been covered by existing leadership. The board expressed its willingness to be a resource to Director Gover as he contemplates organizational design, noting that the vacancy presents an excellent opportunity to optimize the structure of the Museum.

Kevin Gover predicted that the new Strategic Plan will be a full outline, if not preliminary draft by February's meeting, and it will be provided to the Trustees for their consideration and input. The Trustees requested that staff track what is being excluded so Trustees do not revisit already traveled ground. They also asked for clear direction for how much involvement Mr. Gover would like from the Trustees on the Strategic Plan. The trustees also emphasized their willingness to participate in the process, especially in the early stages of the process. There was a suggestion for a survey of the Trustees—perhaps they could do a group interview with Trish Kyle?

During the workshop with Board Source, Kevin Gover enumerated a series of issues that he described as his areas of concern, areas for which he would appreciate the shared insight of Trustees. The issues are:

1. Reorganization of Museum Programs and any shifts to the overall organization of the museum that come with it.

It is key to develop an organizational design that will work internally. Trustees recommended working with a specialized consultant, looking for best practices resources. What resources can be brought to help? Kevin Gover looked at this plan as fine tuning, not as building an airplane



while flying. Talent acquisition is a large part of this concern--it is a challenge. Conversation with Trustees will be specific about what the museum is looking for and what is needed.

## 2. Digitization

## 3. Outreach

Examples of the outreach concern are collection loans to communities. Is the loan to the Anchorage Museum precedent setting? An undertaking like the loan to the Anchorage Museum is a difficult thing to do, but feasible in certain instances where funding is available. Other examples include London, Hawaii, South America, and the Southwest. We know the brand is strong and desired, and that people listen when the Smithsonian is a part of the story at their local museum.

## 4. Training Program for museum professionals

We have a real opportunity with Mellon Foundation. Is this a permanent program for the museum to undertake?

### **Governance Committee Report, 11:45 AM**

Andrew Lee reviewed the candidates for 2016:

Exemption 6

. All will serve if asked.

Margaret Brown moved to approve the full slate, with a second from Valerie Rowe. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passed unanimously

Andrew Lee provided additional updates that Governor Anoatubby has decided to step down from the Board of Trustees in light of extensive competing demands on his time. Additionally, the Committee will take up the Circle of Elders as structured by the Executive Committee.

### **Policy and Budget Report**

The Policy and Budget Committee needs feedback on the proposed dashboard provided in the meeting materials.

### **Repatriation Committee Report, 12:12PM**

Motion was made by Andrew Lee to designate Exemption 6 and Exemption 6 as the two Alternate Trustees for the appeals board, as the leadership roles outlined in the bylaws are not yet established for 2016. Valerie Rowe provided the second to this motion. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passes unanimously.

Margaret Brown introduced the cases at hand, and the recommendations of the committee follow:

Motion by Richard Luarkie with second by Sven Haakanson to recommend Exemption 5

[REDACTED]  
With all in favor and none opposed the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Richard Luarkie with second by Brenda Child for Exemption 5

[REDACTED]  
With all in favor and none opposed the motion carried unanimously.

Update was provided by staff regarding the Exemption 5

Repatriation staff provided an update regarding the Exemption 5

**Collections and Scholarship Committee Report, 12:35 PM**

Brenda Child provided a summary of committee discussions and actions:

The Collection Management Policy was discussed with a view towards updating it for the 2018 AAM Re-Accreditation. In thinking about this policy, the committee would like to request additional time during February committee meetings to review and speak with staff.

**Advancement Committee Report, 12:40 PM**

Would like to activate the engagement list.

**Old Business, 12:P5AM**

Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) update: The programming fits in with NEI. Brian Patterson, Margaret Brown, Valerie Rowe, Andrew Lee and Loretta Tuell volunteered to assist with connecting the PVS with points of contact in communities along their voyage. We will all be enriched by being a part of this experience.

**New Business**

Valerie Rowe provided an update on the Gala in NY:

Four awardees: Annenberg Foundation, Rebel Music, Louise Erdrich, LaDonna Harris

Tentative dates were distributed and reviewed for 2017. Angela Leipold will review to confirm feasibility of logistics and confirm.

Patricia Zell was recognized by the Trustees and Staff of the National Museum of the American Indian for her exemplary service to the museum, which began during her tenure in Senator Daniel K. Inouye's office. She is an unwavering advocate for the museum and the Tribes that it represents, and she is a dear friend to many in the room. We are grateful to know that she will remain close to the museum despite the end of her term as a Trustee.

**Focus Group Session, 1:15 PM**

Office of Policy and Analysis hosted a conversation to enlist guidance and feedback regarding the development of a museum professional fellowship program. Is there a pipeline for fellows? Can we do a job survey? What is the spectrum the program is looking to feed?

**Break 2:25 PM**

**Executive Session, 2:30 PM**

**Meeting Adjourned, 3:53 PM**

## Points of follow up for Trustees:

Secretary Skorton follow ups:

- Requested a copy of Richard Luarkie's PhD thesis "White Man's Moccasins We have their shoes, they have our land: The footprints left by the U.S. Trust Doctrine on Pueblo Indian peoples and a suggestion for transformation through an economic lens."
- Advice on [REDACTED] Exemption 5. Brenda Pipestem to serve as contact, Board to discuss.
- Secretary interested in Trustee involvement with Youth Advisory Committee (danah boyd)
- Margaret Brown invited the Secretary to planned Trustees meeting in Alaska, June 2017
- Secretary Skorton's contact information that he shared is: Exemption 6 [REDACTED] (LeShawn Burrell-Jones is his assistant)

Circle of Elders: Charter was reviewed and does not need revision. Governance Committee has solicited names for membership.

Mitsitam: Interest in the educational opportunity on the Mitsitam Café trays (Andrew Lee)

## Points of follow up for staff:

Kevin Gover to provide copy of the Alaska Feasibility Study to Secretary Skorton.

Veterans Memorial Project:

- Invitations to events organized near Trustees
- Distribute names of the Advisory Council members, also list of events
- Follow-up [REDACTED] Exemption 5
- Staff to provide [REDACTED] Exemption 5

Kevin Gover requests small group of Trustees (Trustees to appoint) to serve as primary contact for [REDACTED] Exemption 5

Trustees to be surveyed regarding Strategic Plan

Collections:

- Collections Management Policy update
- Collecting Plan update in preparation for 2018 AAM re-accreditation

- CRC visit prior to February BoT meeting

Museum Scholarship Group to continue inclusivity with Urban and Suburban Native stories and representation.

Kay WalkingStick: Williams piece as a gift to museum (Follow up by David Penney)

Follow up for the NMAI-NY Gala: please provide details for events for scheduling purposes.

Dashboard development:

- What does the Board want to keep its eye on?
- Exemption 5
- Exemption 5
- Exemption 5
- Exemption 5 ?
- Exemption 5

Notes for Agenda development:

- Need to have something exciting (the why are we here?) 5-10 minutes of a "mission moment"
- Action items covered in the first hour of meeting
- Then time devoted to the issues and questions that Kevin wishes to bring to the Trustees for assistance. Trustees should have questions in advance, and make clear if it is discussion or if action is required. Please include Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the issues. What are the five things we care most about?
- Executive session with or without director

Strategic Plan outline/ possible draft for review at February meeting

Bylaws update re: Repatriation Appeal Board alternates/ designees

**NEXT MEETING DETAILS:**

**2016 Meetings:**

February 4-5 in Washington, DC and Suitland, MD at the Cultural Resource Center (CRC)

February 4, Morning: New Trustee Orientation and Repatriation (NMAI-DC)

February 4, Morning: Repatriation Committee Meeting (NMAI-DC)

February 4, Afternoon:

Collections and Scholarship Committee Meeting (NMAI-CRC)

February 4 Governance Committee Meeting (NMAI-DC)

February 4 Policy and Budget Committee Meeting (NMAI-DC?)

February 4 Advancement Committee Meeting (NMAI-DC)

February 4 4:00 Collections Tour at the NMAI-CRC

February 4, Evening: Dinner at CRC

February 5: Full Board Meeting (8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) (NMAI-DC)

May 11-13 in New York City, NY at NMAI-NY to support NMAI-NY Gala on May 11.

August 17-18 Executive Committee meeting in Santa Fe, NM

October 5-6 in Phoenix, AZ prior to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) meeting