

1 THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
2 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
3

4 The Children's Trust Nominating Committee Meeting was
5 held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, commencing at 3:31
6 p.m., at The Children's Trust, 3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue,
7 Conference Room A, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting
8 was called to order by Rodester Brandon, Committee
9 Chair.

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11 Committee Members

12 Rodester Brandon, At-Large Board Member
13 Dr. Daniel Bagner, Florida International University
14 Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair, Miami Coalition of
15 Christians and Jews
16 The Honorable Orlando Prescott, Juvenile Court Division
17 Marissa Leichter, Gubernatorial Appointee
18 Mary Donworth, United Way of Miami-Dade
19 Mark Trowbridge, Coalition of the Chambers of Commerce
20

21 STAFF:

22 James Haj, President/Chief Executive Officer
23 Imran Ali
24 Muriel Jeanty, Clerk of the Board
25 Vivianne Bohorques

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (Recording of the meeting began at 3:31
3 p.m.)

4 MR. BRANDON: Okay. So, good afternoon,
5 everybody. I'd like to go ahead and call this meeting
6 to order, the Nominating Committee. We're here to
7 consider our vice chair position.

8 And in order to get started, we're going to
9 have our CEO, Jim Haj, make some comments.

10 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you. At the
11 direction of this committee, when the vice chair
12 position became available, we put it out. We gave a
13 timeline.

14 One Board member responded he would like to
15 be considered for the position. We also had three other
16 Board members who responded that they supported his
17 candidacy.

18 So, that's Mark Trowbridge put in for the
19 vice chair. And Gilda, Pam and Steve all supported his
20 nomination. So, you don't have a difficult choice. We
21 have one member who put in who I think is very
22 qualified. And he will be here --

23 MR. BRANDON: He is here.

24 MR. HAJ: Oh, he's here already. Mark's out
25 there because in the last couple of meetings, you wanted

1 to interview the candidate --

2 MR. BRANDON: Yes.

3 MR. HAJ: -- so we had him available so if
4 you want to ask him some questions. What I also asked
5 him -- what we asked in the e-mail and I asked him to
6 put something in writing about why he wanted the
7 position, and that's in your packet. You should have a
8 letter from him.

9 MR. BRANDON: I think it's on the back of
10 the agenda. So, you want to take a look at that,
11 everybody.

12 (Off the record.)

13 MR. BRANDON: Okay. It looks like
14 everybody's glanced over it. Any issues or concerns we
15 need to bring up?

16 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

17 MR. BRANDON: So, Muriel --

18 MS. JEANTY: Can I go and get him?

19 MR. BRANDON: I think so. Anyone want to
20 say anything else before -- wait a minute. Let's talk
21 about what we're going to ask him. I'll welcome him, of
22 course, for coming and thank him for stepping up.

23 Perhaps we can ask him to give an overview
24 of his background and his vision. We've read it, but
25 maybe he can -- it would be nice to hear it coming from

1 his lips. Any other concerns?

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Why is he crazy enough to do
3 this?

4 MS. JEANTY: Maybe we can have him sit here.

5 MR. BRANDON: Yeah. He seems to be very
6 enthusiastic about doing it, so that makes our job a
7 little easier. Okay. Muriel, do you want me to get
8 him?

9 MS. JEANTY: No, I will.

10 MS. DONWORTH: How long has he been on the
11 Board?

12 MS. LEICHTER: I think he said "three
13 years."

14 MR. HAJ: He was here before -- right when I
15 took over, about three years.

16 (Off the record.)

17 (WHEREUPON, Mark Trowbridge entered the
18 meeting room.)

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Hello, everybody.

20 MR. BRANDON: So, Mark, we'd like to thank
21 you for coming in. I'm always taken by your baritone
22 voice. I always want to hear you sing an aria of some
23 sort.

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Well, you'll have to join
25 me in the shower. That's the only way I'm going to sing

1 an aria.

2 MR. HAJ: Keep that off the record.

3 MR. BRANDON: Strike that from the record.

4 We'll pass on that one. I'm sure you'd be an instant
5 success anytime you open your mouth to sing.

6 MS. LEICHTER: Humor is key.

7 MR. BRANDON: But we'd like to thank you for
8 applying.

9 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

10 MR. BRANDON: You've come with good
11 recommendations from your colleagues, and we'd like for
12 you to talk about your vision. We've read it. We'd
13 like to hear it from you, and any other -- and maybe a
14 little overview of your background.

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Sure. So, I think, for
16 those of you who aren't as familiar with the sort of
17 Chamber of Commerce role, we were very fortunate, when
18 the Trust was created, to have a permanent voting seat
19 on the Trust.

20 And so, for a number of years, that has been
21 shared with other colleagues. But my predecessor, when
22 his time was term-limited, gave an opportunity for a new
23 person to step in.

24 So I took on that role almost three years
25 ago. And in doing so, I think, A) sort of bring to the

1 table kind of the business community's perspective, but
2 B) just be here to help and serve, kind of what Chambers
3 do with our members each and every day.

4 So, as I think as you see on my statement,
5 my goal is obviously to support leadership and work
6 closely with them. I've been serving on the Finance
7 Committee all of that time.

8 And I obviously, I think, have a pretty good
9 idea of the operation. It's just a scale of difference,
10 pretty significant, from what we do in the Chamber
11 world, but very much about transparency and working and
12 building coalitions.

13 So, that's kind of my background. I've been
14 at our Chamber for about 12 years and I've been chairing
15 a coalition group of about a dozen Chambers for about
16 the last 10 or so. So, I'm really good, I think, at
17 building consensus and convening folks and creating
18 conversation.

19 MR. BRANDON: Okay. And how about -- does
20 that encapsulate the vision as well?

21 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Well, I think the vision is
22 as simply as I put it is that, you know, I think the
23 vice chair is a role of support. And so obviously, the
24 by-laws sort of give you a pretty narrow idea of what
25 that person does.

1 If the chair is absent or needs to step
2 away, then it's the role for a short period of time. I
3 would feel comfortable doing it. But I think in the
4 role that Ken has as the new chair, he's very eager to
5 keep us moving forward. So, I would support what he's
6 doing.

7 You know, if I see opportunities for us to,
8 you know, a special project or something like that, I
9 would certainly hope that maybe there would be an
10 opportunity to lead in that.

11 So, I guess, my goal is to be as big a team
12 player as possible and a cheerleader of what the Trust
13 is doing, and be available for whatever may be needed.

14 MR. BRANDON: Any questions from the Board
15 members, my colleagues?

16 MS. DONWORTH: I just have a general
17 question.

18 MR. BRANDON: Sure.

19 MS. DONWORTH: I know you've done a
20 phenomenal job at the City of Coral Gables and really
21 enhancing the profile, all of that. And I'm just
22 wondering, from the perspective of marketing, from
23 seeing where there are opportunities, can you see
24 additional opportunities for the Trust?

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Sure. I think, you know,

1 one of the things that was, you know, unique about the
2 Coral Gables Chamber when I came there 12 years ago was
3 that we spent a lot of our time focused on the business
4 but not about the business in terms of elevating that.

5 So, you know, my first six months, I just
6 spent a lot of time and energy going out meeting the
7 folks, and not only acquainting them with what we do but
8 really reacquainting them with what our community is
9 about. I saw it bigger than just a membership-based
10 organization.

11 So, I think, at times, we can be
12 inward-focused because we have a very large, you know,
13 constituency. We have a very broad, you know, spectrum
14 of activities that we're doing.

15 And so with that as a volunteer or in this
16 role as the vice chair could be to sort of help lift
17 that, maybe that's an additional sort of assignment and
18 opportunity.

19 You know, we have something very special
20 here. And, I think, at the end of the day, when you
21 talk to people, they still kind of scratch their heads a
22 little bit, not so much in the sense of the brand but
23 maybe in the sense of the drill-down of what we do each
24 and every day.

25 And when you even mention small things,

1 like, our internship programs or the fact that, you
2 know, when I did "Principal for a Day" and the school
3 nurse was there, we were helping support them, not
4 everybody knows that, including some of the folks who
5 work at that school.

6 So, I think we all have to be evangelists
7 for what the organization does. And if I can help lead
8 that effort, work closely with Ken on that, I'd be glad
9 to.

10 MR. BRANDON: Any other questions, any
11 comments from anyone?

12 MR. HOFFMAN: I don't have a question. But
13 before Mark leaves, I would like to say, since I can say
14 it in a public context and not in a private context,
15 first of all, I'm thrilled that you raised your hand to
16 take this opportunity.

17 And I do think there are things in that
18 nature, the nature of marketing and some of the skills
19 that you have, that would be terrific. And I would just
20 say that, take initiative, because nothing you do will
21 step on my toes in that regard.

22 And, of course, you know, we have staff here
23 who's more than willing to help. And I really look
24 forward, since we're going to meet in the Executive
25 Committee and the like but, you know, sit and plan

1 without this context.

2 So, I would welcome any opportunities that
3 you have to increase the visibility, exposure and
4 understanding of the public of what we're doing.

5 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

6 MS. LEICHTER: I'd like to say that I'm also
7 happy that you put your name in. We didn't know --
8 well, I didn't know that you were the candidate until we
9 walked in today. So, you're just always so friendly and
10 happy.

11 And I think that's important, especially
12 with the turnover on the Board, you know, to have the
13 Executive Committee and the officers be, like, have that
14 personality to welcome people, and you're just very
15 approachable so, thank you.

16 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Well, I come from a
17 non-profit background. I've always worked in a
18 non-profit, whether it's community-based organizations,
19 starting out many years ago at SwitchBoard of Miami, or
20 working for City government.

21 I've already worked in that arena, and I
22 think that approachability is obviously a hallmark for
23 leadership. And I also think it makes people who come
24 in a room with 40 folks around the table from all
25 different walks of life, especially in an on-boarding

1 process, can be really daunting.

2 I went through it myself. I remember my
3 very first meeting where we were getting blasted as a
4 Board, I mean, blasted. And I was completely oblivious
5 that they were basically talking about me which, I
6 guess, is good.

7 But in a way, those types of things are
8 obviously a vestige of the past. But I also think you
9 have to be diligent. But I think if you create that
10 type of culture and environment on the Board, that there
11 are better ways that we can handle that and support
12 staff, because they were taking it on the chin at the
13 same time.

14 As a person who is staff to a Board of 40,
15 almost the same exact size, I certainly understand the
16 kind of nuances, both behind the scenes and in front of
17 the cameras.

18 MR. BRANDON: All right. Thank you for
19 coming in.

20 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. We'll see if I
21 go back in the right door again. Thank you all very
22 much. I appreciate your time and your faith and trust.

23 (WHEREUPON, Mark Trowbridge exited the
24 meeting room.)

25 (Off the record.)

1 MR. BRANDON: Okay. So, at this point, I
2 guess it's time for us to vote. Anybody have any
3 concerns before we go and cast our votes? Any issues
4 that you want to bring up before?

5 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

6 MR. BRANDON: All in favor of Mark
7 Trowbridge as our vice --

8 MR. ALI: We need to do a motion.

9 MR. BRANDON: Excuse me.

10 JUDGE PRESCOTT: I so move.

11 MS. LEICHTER: I second.

12 MR. BRANDON: It's been moved and seconded.
13 All in favor of having Mark Trowbridge as our vice
14 chairman of the Children's Trust Board, signify by
15 saying "aye."

16 (WHEREUPON, the Board members all responded
17 with "aye".)

18 MR. BRANDON: Those opposed?

19 (NO VERBAL RESPONSE.)

20 MR. BRANDON: The "ayes" have it, unanimous.

21 MS. LEICHTER: So, Ken will bring it before
22 the Board?

23 MR. HAJ: It's on the agenda for Mr. Chair
24 to bring it to the Board for a vote, and once they vote,
25 he will --

1 MR. BRANDON: That's fine. All right. Any
2 other business?

3 MR. HAJ: No. And we'll be recognizing also
4 Lily for serving as the vice chair in a little while, so
5 we will be thanking her for service and welcoming Mark
6 in.

7 MR. BRANDON: Well, thank you all.

8 MR. HAJ: Thank you, everybody, for coming
9 early.

10 MR. BRANDON: Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, at 3:45 p.m., the meeting was
12 adjourned.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 STATE OF FLORIDA:4 COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE:
56 I, Fernando Subirats, Court Reporter and Notary
7 Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, do
8 hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report
9 the proceedings in the above-styled cause; that the
10 foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to 14, inclusive,
11 constitute a true and complete record of my notes.12 I further certify that I am not a relative, employee,
13 attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a
14 relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or
15 counsel connected with the action, nor financially
16 interested in the action.
1718 Dated this 22nd day of February, 2019.
1920
21 22
23 _____
24 Fernando Subirats
25 Court Reporter

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