

FINAL
MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 30, 1996
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol Room -- Rooms 402-403

ATTENDANCE

Present were:

Speaker Paul Hillegonds, Chair
Senator Dick Posthumus, Alternate Chair
Representative Tom Alley, Member
Senator John D. Cherry, Jr., Member
Senator Dan L. DeGrow, Member
Representative Frank M. Fitzgerald, Member
Representative Pat Gagliardi, Member

Representative Jan Dolan, Alternate Member

Dianne M. Odrobina, Secretary to the Legislative Council
Lisa-Ann Acquario, Clerk to the Legislative Council
Judy Allen, Administrative Aide, Office of Senator DeGrow
Judy Barton, Chief Policy and Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker of the House
Clayton Burch, Corrections Ombudsman
Nancy Childs, Legislative Assistant, Office of Representative Gagliardi
Carol Cousineau, Division Director, LSB Legal Division
Bonnie Gasperini, Chair, Library of Michigan Board of Trustees
Matt Godlewski, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Posthumus
Carlo Ginotti, Attorney/Administrator, Sentencing Guidelines Commission
Traci Kanillopoolos, Administrative Secretary to the Director, LSB
Leo Kennedy, Division Director, LSB Legislative Research Division
Jerry Lawler, Director, Legislative Council Facilities Agency
Doug Miller, Administrator/Attorney, JCAR
Roger Peters, Division Director, LSB Legal Editing and Law Publishing
Thomas Moore, Member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees
Suzann Ruch, Executive Assistant, Office of Senator Schwarz

Barb Southwell, Legislative Assistant, Office of Representative Walberg
David Tate, Member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees
Elliott Smith, Director, Legislative Service Bureau

Members Excused:

Senator Virgil Clark Smith, Member
Senator John J.H. Schwarz, Member
Representative Kenneth Sikkema, Member
Senator Glenn Steil, Member
Representative Timothy Walberg, Member

Representative William Byl, Alternate Member
Senator Jon A. Cisky, Alternate Member
Representative Curtis Hertel, Alternate Member
Senator Michael J. O'Brien, Alternate Member
Senator Bill Schuette, Alternate Member

ITEM I. *Convening of the Meeting*

The Council Chair, Speaker Paul Hillegonds, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and announced that a quorum was present.

ITEM II. *Approval of the Minutes of the March 21, 1996, Legislative Council meeting.*

Speaker Hillegonds asked if there were any comments or additions to the minutes of the March 21, 1996, Michigan Legislative Council meeting. There were no changes to the minutes.

Representative Frank M. Fitzgerald moved, seconded by Senator Dick Posthumus, to adopt the minutes of the March 21, 1996, Legislative Council Meeting. The Chair asked for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion.

The minutes were unanimously adopted.

**ITEM III. *Report of the Search Committee for the State Librarian --
Representative Frank M. Fitzgerald, Chair***

Representative Fitzgerald reported that the search to select the most qualified candidate for the position of state librarian began over a year and a half ago. The first attempt at a search was unsuccessful because although several candidates applied, the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees felt the candidate pool should be broader and deeper. As a result, the search committee

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urged the Legislative Council to expand the process.

The Council then appointed a formal search committee which included four members of the Legislative Council and four members of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees. The Legislative Council approved the search committee's request to use a professional search firm to assist the committee. Gossage Regan Associates, Inc., the firm chosen by the committee, is an internationally known professional librarian search firm based in New York. They have done hundreds of searches for librarians throughout the country. Last year, Mr. Wayne Gossage, president of the firm, came to Lansing with his assistant and met with the search committee. During this initial meeting, Mr. Gossage explained the process his firm intended to use to secure a wide pool of candidates for the state librarian position.

Before completing their initial work, Gossage Regan Associates, Inc. came back to Lansing for a second meeting to learn Michigan's needs vis-a-vis a state librarian. These meetings took the form of informational gatherings which were attended by local librarians, co-op librarians, and special librarians, as well as the staff of the Library of Michigan. Gossage Regan Associates, Inc. then looked throughout the country for individuals who had experience in a comparable management position. An advertisement for this position was placed in major library publications throughout the country. Gossage Regan Associates, Inc. found fifty candidates for the search committee. The pool of fifty applicants was narrowed down for the interview process.

The search committee invited three finalists, Christie P. Brandau, George M. Needham, and Kendall F. Wiggin, to the State Library in May. At that time there was a public forum for individuals to ask questions of the three candidates, and to present their impressions to the search committee. This input, along with information from reference checks and from the candidates themselves, were considered by the search committee members.

Representative Fitzgerald emphasized that as a result of this very extensive process, the search committee concluded that Mr. George Needham was the best of the candidates and would be an excellent state librarian for Michigan's future. Mr. Needham is experienced in the academic and library worlds. He is currently Executive Director of the Public Library Association, one of eleven branches of the American Library Association. He has had extensive experience in managing large staffs and understands the services and responsibilities libraries offer their customers. Representative Fitzgerald concluded by asking the Legislative Council members for their approval to hire Mr. George M. Needham as state librarian for the Library of Michigan. Representative Fitzgerald informed the Council that Mr. Needham could start in early August, and that it was agreed that his salary would be \$79,000.

Representative Fitzgerald acknowledged the amount of time and work that the search committee had put into seeking a candidate for the position of state librarian. He then listed the search committee members: Bonnie Gasperini, Chair for the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees; Linda McFadden, Vice-Chair for the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees; David Tate, Member

of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees; Thomas Moore, Member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees; Representative Timothy Walberg, Legislative Council Member; Senator John J.H. Schwarz, Legislative Council Member; and Dianne M. Odrobina, Legislative Council Administrator. Representative Fitzgerald also acknowledged the staff members that assisted the committee during the search: Robin VanAlstine, Human Resources, Library of Michigan and Karen Newman, Administrative Aide, Office of Representative Fitzgerald.

At the conclusion of his report, Representative Fitzgerald thanked Jeff Johnson, Deputy State Librarian, for his excellent managerial skills and work at the Library during the two-year period for which there was not a state librarian. Representative Fitzgerald commended Mr. Johnson for his ability to step in as “Acting State Librarian.”

When Representative Fitzgerald finished his report, Speaker Hillegonds asked if there was any further discussion. The Speaker stated that he thought the search committee had done an excellent job, and he was in favor of the appointment. Representative Gagliardi also expressed the same opinion.

Representative Dolan moved, seconded by Representative Gagliardi, that the Legislative Council appoint Mr. George M. Needham to the position of State Librarian. The Chair then directed the Secretary to call the roll.

The Roll Call Vote:

Speaker Hillegonds	Yes
Senator Posthumus	Yes
Senator Cherry	Yes
Senator DeGrow	Yes
Representative Fitzgerald	Yes
Representative Gagliardi	Yes
Representative Dolan	Yes

The motion passed unanimously with 7 yes votes.

**The Chair moved to excuse the absent members.
The motion was unanimously adopted.**

ITEM IV. *Old Business*

The Chair asked if there was any old business to discuss. There was no old business brought to the attention of the Council.

ITEM V. *New Business*

The Chair asked if there was any new business to discuss. There was none.

ITEM VI. *Public Participation*

The Chair asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Council. There were no such requests.

ITEM VII. *Time, Date, and Location of the next Legislative Council Meeting*

The next Legislative Council meeting has been scheduled for the date of December 4, 1996, at 1:00 p.m. in Rooms 425-426 in the State Capitol Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Odrobina
Secretary

DMO:la

(Minutes approved at the December 4, 1996 Legislative Council meeting.)