



**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**SUSAN G. ROSENTHAL**  
President & CEO

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RuthAnne Visnauskas, Chair, Commissioner of NYSHCR  
Robert F. Mujica Jr., Director of Budget  
Fay Fryer Christian  
David Kraut  
Howard Polivy  
Michael Shinozaki  
Margaret Smith

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2018 MEETING OF THE  
ROOSEVELT ISLAND OPERATING CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Road, Roosevelt Island, New York, on January 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

**Directors Present:**

Alejandro J. Valella	Representing RuthAnne Visnauskas, RIOC Chair and Commissioner, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Erica Levendosky	Representing Robert F. Mujica, Director, the State of New York Division of Budget
Fay Fryer Christian	Director
David Kraut	Director
Howard Polivy	Director
Margaret Smith	Director

**Directors Absent:**

Michael Shinozaki	Director
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**Officers and Staff Attending:**

Susan G. Rosenthal	President/Chief Executive Officer
Jacqueline P. Flug	Vice President/General Counsel
Shelton J. Haynes	Vice President of Operations
Kimberly L. Quinones	Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
Arthur G. Eliav	Associate General Counsel
Stephen Noone	Assistant Vice President of Capital Planning and Projects
Alonza Robertson	Public Information Officer
Gretchen K. Robinson	Internal Controls and Compliance Officer
Lada V. Stasko	Assistant General Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> The RIOC Board Meeting commenced following a public comment period. The public comment period was not part of the meeting.

1 Chair's Designee Mr. Valella called the Board meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. The roll was  
2 called and a quorum found to be assembled and present.

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6 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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8 The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2017  
9 meeting of the RIOC Board of Directors. The proposed draft of the December 19, 2017 Board  
10 meeting minutes had been previously distributed to all Board members for their consideration.

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12 Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by unanimous vote in favor (Mr. Valella,  
13 Ms. Levendosky, Ms. Christian, Mr. Kraut, Mr. Polivy and Ms. Smith), the minutes were  
14 **APPROVED** and ordered filed.

15  
16 \* \* \*

17 **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1**

18  
19 The first item of new business was the authorization to amend the Contract with Hawkins  
20 Webb Jaeger, PLLC (HWJ) for Engineering Consulting Services.

21  
22 Vice President of Operations Haynes explained the need to extend the contract with a  
23 temporary engineering consultant Michael Russo of HWJ for three more months. According to  
24 Mr. Shelton, this extension request would provide adequate time to complete the reorganization of  
25 the former Engineering Department, as well as to provide daily project management from Ms.  
26 Fasano of HWJ. In response to Director Smith's question, Mr. Haynes noted that this is the last  
27 request for extension. Ms. Smith stated that the Board may further extend the contract if needed.

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29 Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by unanimous vote in favor (Mr. Valella,  
30 Ms. Levendosky, Ms. Christian, Mr. Kraut, Mr. Polivy and Ms. Smith), the following resolution  
31 was ADOPTED:

32  
33 **RESOLUTION**

34  
35 **AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND CONTRACT WITH HAWKINS WEBB JAEGER, PLLC**  
36 **FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES**

37  
38  
39 **RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of  
40 New York ("RIOC"), as follows:

41  
42 Section 1. that RIOC is hereby authorized to amend the contract with Hawkins Webb  
43 Jaeger, PLLC for engineering consulting services, upon such terms and  
44 conditions substantially similar to those outlined in the Memorandum from  
45 Stephen Noone to RIOC Board of Directors/Susan G. Rosenthal dated  
46 January 17, 2018, attached hereto;



1 **NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3**

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3 The third item of new business was the authorization to enter into contract with the  
4 Roosevelt Island Youth Program for the operation of the Roosevelt Island Youth Center.

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6 Chair's Designee Mr. Valella stated that he is adjourning this item for further review.  
7

8 In response to Director Polivy's inquiry, General Counsel Jacqueline Flug provided the  
9 background of the Roosevelt Island Youth Center Operator contract. She noted that RIOC  
10 originally issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Roosevelt Island Youth Center Operator  
11 in September 2016. Three proposals were received and evaluated by RIOC. However, RIOC  
12 started to receive complaints criticizing the applicants and RIOC's review process. In addition,  
13 RIOC reconsidered the nature of this contract and concluded that this is not a procurement of  
14 services, but rather a grant. Ms. Flug stated that it is within RIOC's powers to distribute 3% of the  
15 annual operating budget of the corporation to non-for-profits in the form of grants. According to  
16 Ms. Flug, the RFP also stated that RIOC would enter into a lease with the Operator. However,  
17 RIOC does not wish to enter into a lease with the Operator because under the State Finance Law  
18 it would be a disposition of state property. Instead, RIOC intends to issue a license for the premises  
19 to the Operator. Subsequently, the original RFP was withdrawn.  
20

21 In September 2017, RIOC issued the Request for Applications (RFA) for an Operator for  
22 the Roosevelt Island Youth Center. According to Ms. Flug, the successful applicant would be  
23 receiving a license to operate the Youth Center, not a lease. Ms. Flug further stated that the  
24 allegations against three RIOC reviewers of the original RFP were unfounded and incorrect. If  
25 RIOC team had to review the new RFA, it might well face the similar allegations. Therefore, RIOC  
26 went to outside evaluators with experience in child services. Ms. Flug stated that two applications  
27 were received in response to the RFA and evaluated by the outside evaluators, including from New  
28 York State Office of Children and Family Services and Patricia Pell, who currently serves as the  
29 Executive Director of Roosevelt Island Day Nursery. However, Ms. Pell evaluated the proposals  
30 in her own personal capacity as an educator. In response to Mr. Kraut's question, Ms. Flug assured  
31 him that the evaluators were unbiased.  
32

33 Director Smith noted that she received 78 emails in support Roosevelt Island Youth  
34 Program. She stated that postponing the vote would not make any difference. Ms. Smith noted  
35 that the selection process was fair and that the community is relying on the Youth Center services.  
36

37 Director Christian noted that she would like to postpone the vote on this item. She stated  
38 that there is a legitimate concern from the residents that the evaluators did not have enough  
39 information from the community. Ms. Christian also noted that experience shouldn't have been  
40 the main criteria in applicants' evaluation. She stated that RIOC needs to investigate the  
41 complaints and look more into the community opposition.  
42

43 Mr. Valella noted that there is a division over a sensitive topic between two entities on the  
44 Island. He stated that it is prudent to do the due diligence. Director Kraut noted, however, that  
45 from his lengthy experience on the Island, as a resident and a Board member, this residents'  
46 division always existed.  
47

1 Mr. Valella noted that he is not comfortable to vote on this item now and that due to  
2 division, he doesn't think RIOC should vote now. Ms. Christian agreed with Mr. Valella. In  
3 response to Mr. Kraut's motion to approve, Ms. Flug noted that Mr. Valella has already adjourned  
4 this item.

5 \* \* \*

6 Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by four votes in favor (Mr. Valella, Ms.  
7 Levendosky, Ms. Christian and Mr. Polivy), and two votes against (Mr. Kraut and Ms. Smith) the  
8 meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Jacqueline P. Flug, Secretary