

Editorial: Robinson is the right choice for foundation seat

Marin Independent Journal Editorial

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COUNTY SUPERVISORS' selection of Dr. Curtis Robinson for the county seat on the Marin Community Foundation board is a wise one. Robinson, who has deep roots in our county and is one of the founders of the Marin City Health and Wellness Center, will be a terrific addition to the foundation's board.

Andrew Giacomini's last-minute recommendation that Robinson get the appointment bodes well for him when supervisors face the task of selecting the county's representative in the future.

Robinson and Giacomini were the two finalists after the supervisors winnowed a field of 36 applicants to succeed former Supervisor Gary Giacomini, Andrew Giacomini's father, on the board of trustees that guides the \$1 billion Marin Community Foundation.

Robinson, a Mill Valley physician and graduate of Tamalpais High School, got the nod after Giacomini heped break a 2-2 deadlock on the board by bowing out. It was a noble gesture — and the right thing to do.

If Supervisor Hal Brown had been healthy enough to attend the meeting, Giacomini would have won the appointment on a 3-2 vote. But Brown is still too weak from his battle with cancer and could not attend. Even though he sent in a letter backing Andrew Giacomini, his absence left the board deadlocked.

But the board's ultimate selection of Robinson removed any perception that political money and favoritism would have any influence in the appointment.

Robinson is not a big player in Marin politics, even though he serves as a trustee on the county Board of Education.

He brings to the board homegrown knowledge of Marin. His experience in local health care is a good addition to the foundation's nine-member board. In addition, his community-building leadership in Marin City should offer valuable insight to the foundation board.

Robinson's appointment is absent the same sort of perception of political influence that his predecessor faced.

As longtime county supervisor and a champion of the Buck Trust battle that led to the formation of the foundation, Gary Giacomini brought important experience and knowledge to the foundation's board and decision-making process. His record of public service in Marin is hard to match. Still,

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some of the foundation's initiatives drew complaints that they reflected Giacomini's politics. His law firm's work for local developers and its donations to local political candidates, including county supervisors, did little to quiet criticism.

Andrew Giacomini is the firm's managing partner.

The criticism could have followed him had he been named to immediately succeed his father.

Andrew Giacomini has created his own community identity, having taken leadership roles in Marin Legal Aid, local civic improvements and advocating for political reforms. But a little distance between his father's term on the foundation board and his own would help dispel perceptions and criticism.

His magnanimous endorsement of Robinson also should help do just that. We respect the sense of community spirit that led to his unselfish endorsement.

We agree with him.

Curtis Robinson will be a fine addition to the foundation board. He is the right choice at the right time.



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