

GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 21, 2014
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Gladstone Commercial Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Not Applicable

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

.. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

- (5) Total fee paid:

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:

- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

- (3) Filing Party:

- (4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100

McLean, Virginia 22102

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On May 1, 2014

To the Stockholders of Gladstone Commercial Corporation:

We are notifying you that the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Gladstone Commercial Corporation will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. local time at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, located at 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102, for the following purposes:

1. To elect two directors to hold office until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
2. To ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2014; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice.

The Board of Directors has fixed March 10, 2014, as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are providing access to our proxy materials over the Internet. As a result, we are mailing to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, which contains instructions on how stockholders can access those documents over the Internet and vote their shares. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also contains instructions on how stockholders can receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, including this Proxy Statement, our 2013 Annual Report, and a proxy card or voting instruction card. We believe this process will expedite stockholders' receipt of proxy materials, lower the costs of our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and conserve natural resources.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Michael LiCalsi

Secretary

McLean, Virginia

March 21, 2014

The Board of Directors is soliciting proxies to be used at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. All of our stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you are urged to submit your proxy electronically via the Internet or vote by telephone as instructed in these materials. Submitting your proxy or voting instructions promptly will assist us in reducing the expenses of additional proxy solicitation, but it will not affect your right to vote in person if you attend the Annual Meeting (and, if you are not a stockholder of record, you have obtained a legal proxy from the bank, broker, trustee or other nominee that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares in person at the Annual Meeting).

Table of Contents

GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100

McLean, Virginia 22102

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 1, 2014	
<u>PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS</u>	1
<u>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING</u>	1
<u>PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO CLASS OF 2017</u>	6
<u>THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH NAMED NOMINEE</u>	7
<u>INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	10
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	13
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	14
<u>PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	18
<u>THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 2</u>	19
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	19
<u>SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	20
<u>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	20
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	21
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	21
<u>TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS</u>	22
<u>HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS</u>	24
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	25

Table of Contents

GLADSTONE COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102

PROXY STATEMENT

FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On May 1, 2014

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

What is the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials and why am I receiving it?

Pursuant to the e-proxy rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we are providing access to our proxy materials in a fast and efficient manner via the Internet. Accordingly, on March 21, 2014, we mailed a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) to all stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 10, 2014, and posted our proxy materials on the website referenced in the Notice (www.proxyvote.com). As more fully described in the Notice, all stockholders may choose to access our proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice. In addition, the Notice and website provide information regarding how you may elect to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. If you previously elected to receive a printed or electronic copy of our proxy materials, which we also expect to distribute on or about March 21, 2014, you will continue to receive these materials by mail or electronic mail. You will continue to receive paper or electronic copies of our proxy materials in the future until you elect otherwise.

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 10, 2014, will be entitled to vote at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting). On the record date, there were 15,822,914 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on March 10, 2014, your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Computershare, Inc., then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the meeting, vote by proxy, or vote over the telephone or on the Internet. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by following the instructions in the Notice or in this proxy statement to ensure that your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If on March 10, 2014, your shares were held not in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization (collectively, a Brokerage Firm), then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name and the Notice is being forwarded to you by that Brokerage Firm, which is the actual stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your Brokerage Firm as to how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your Brokerage Firm.

Table of Contents

What am I voting on?

There are two matters scheduled for a vote, as follows:

Proposal 1, to elect two directors to hold office until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders; and

Proposal 2, to ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2014.

How do I vote?

For Proposal 1, you may either vote **FOR** all the nominees to the Board of Directors (the Board) or you may **WITHHOLD** your vote for any nominee you specify. For Proposal 2, you may vote **FOR**, **AGAINST** or abstain from voting. The procedures for voting are set forth below:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting, vote over the telephone, vote by proxy on the Internet, or vote by proxy by using a proxy card that you may request or that we may elect to deliver at a later time. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote using one of the methods listed below to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting, and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.

To vote using a proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the proxy card that may be delivered and return it promptly in the envelope provided. To request a proxy card, follow the instructions on the Notice. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

To vote over the telephone, dial toll-free 1-800-690-6903 using a touch-tone phone and follow the recorded instructions. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 30, 2014, the day prior to the Annual Meeting, to be counted.

To vote on the Internet, follow the instructions in the Notice or go to www.proxyvote.com to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the Notice. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 30, 2014, the day prior to the Annual Meeting, to be counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Your Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your Brokerage Firm, you should have received a Notice containing voting instructions from that organization rather than from Gladstone Commercial Corporation. Simply follow the voting instructions in the Notice to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may vote by telephone or over the Internet as instructed by your Brokerage Firm. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your Brokerage Firm. Follow the instructions from your Brokerage Firm or contact them to request a proxy form.

Table of Contents

We provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from your Internet access provider and telephone company.

What if another matter is properly brought before the meeting?

The Board knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you owned as of March 10, 2014.

What if I return a proxy card or otherwise vote but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card or otherwise vote without marking voting selections, your shares will be voted **FOR** the election of all director nominees and **FOR** the ratification of the Audit Committee's selection of PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2014. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy holder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We, Gladstone Commercial Corporation, will bear the cost of solicitation of proxies, including preparation, assembly, printing and mailing of the Notice, and any additional information furnished to stockholders. Copies of solicitation materials will be furnished to banks, brokerage houses, fiduciaries and custodians holding in their names shares of our common stock beneficially owned by others to forward to such beneficial owners. We may reimburse persons representing beneficial owners of our common stock for their costs of forwarding solicitation materials to such beneficial owners. Original solicitation of proxies by mail may be supplemented by telephone or personal solicitation by directors, officers or other employees of Gladstone Management Corporation (our Adviser), or Gladstone Administration, LLC (our Administrator). No additional compensation will be paid to directors, officers or other employees for such services.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice?

If you receive more than one Notice, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts at your Brokerage Firm. Please follow the voting instructions on all such Notices to ensure that all of your shares have been voted.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date.

You may grant a subsequent proxy through the Internet.

Table of Contents

You may vote by telephone on a later date.

You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Gladstone Commercial Corporation's corporate secretary at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102.

You may attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. However, simply attending the meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy. Your most current proxy card, Internet proxy or telephone vote is the one that is counted. If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your Brokerage Firm.

When are stockholder proposals due for next year's Annual Meeting?

We will consider for inclusion in our proxy materials for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders proposals that we receive not later than November 21, 2014, and that comply with all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and our bylaws, as amended (Bylaws). Stockholders must submit their proposals to our corporate secretary at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102.

In addition, any stockholder who wishes to propose a nominee to the Board or propose any other business to be considered by the stockholders (other than a stockholder proposal to be included in our proxy materials pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act) must comply with the advance notice provisions and other requirements of Article II, Section 4 of our Bylaws, a copy of which is on file with the SEC and may be obtained from our corporate secretary upon request. These notice provisions require that nominations of persons for election to the Board and proposals of business to be considered by the stockholders for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must be made in writing and submitted to our corporate secretary at the address above no earlier than February 2, 2015 (90 days before the first anniversary of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders) and not later than March 2, 2015 (60 days before the first anniversary of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders). You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting of stockholders. A quorum will be present if at least a majority of the outstanding voting shares are represented by stockholders present at the meeting or by proxy. On the record date, there were 15,822,914 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, 7,911,458 shares must be represented by stockholders present at the meeting or by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your Brokerage Firm or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the meeting. **WITHHOLD** votes, abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the holders of a majority of the voting shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy may adjourn the meeting to another date.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the meeting, who will separately count: (i) **FOR** and **WITHHOLD** votes and broker non-votes for Proposal 1 (election of directors) and (ii) **FOR**,

Table of Contents

AGAINST and **ABSTAIN** votes with respect to Proposal 2 (ratification of the appointment of PwC). **WITHHOLD** votes, abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect with regard to Proposals 1 and 2, although they will be considered present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. We expect that our chief financial officer and treasurer, Danielle Jones, and our internal counsel and secretary, Michael LiCalsi, will be appointed as the inspectors of election.

What are broker non-votes ?

Broker non-votes occur when a beneficial owner of shares held in street name does not give instructions to his or her Brokerage Firm holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed non-routine. Generally, if shares are held in street name, the beneficial owner of the shares is entitled to give voting instructions to the Brokerage Firm holding the shares. If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, the Brokerage Firm can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be routine, but not with respect to non-routine matters.

Under applicable rules of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), Proposal 1 (election of directors) is a non-routine proposal; your Brokerage Firm is not entitled to vote your shares without your instructions. Proposal 2 (ratification of the appointment of PwC) is a routine proposal; your Brokerage Firm may vote your shares even if it does not receive instructions from you. In the event that a Brokerage Firm indicates on a proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote certain shares on a non-routine proposal, then those shares will be treated as broker non-votes.

How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

For Proposal 1, the vote of a plurality of all the votes cast at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the election of a director. Therefore, for the two director positions, the two nominees receiving the most **FOR** votes (among votes properly cast in person or by proxy) will be elected. **WITHHOLD** and broker non-votes, if any, will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote. However, they will be counted towards the quorum requirement.

For Proposal 2, the ratification of PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm, the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present is required to approve the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote. However, they will be counted toward the quorum requirement.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Final results will be announced in a Current Report on Form 8-K, which will be filed with the SEC within four business days after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO CLASS OF 2017

Our Board is divided into three classes. Each class consists, as nearly as possible, of one-third of the total number of directors and has a staggered three-year term. Vacancies on the Board may be filled by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy in a class, including any vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is elected and qualified.

Our Board currently has 10 directorships, but is currently composed of eight members due Mr. George Stelljes' resignation from our Board in January 2013 and Mr. Earhart's death in February 2014. Neither of these vacancies has been filled. There are two directors in the class whose term of office expires in 2014. Therefore, the Board has nominated two persons for election to the class whose term of office expires in 2017. All of the nominees listed below are also incumbent directors previously elected by the stockholders. If elected at the Annual Meeting, each nominee would serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting and until his or her successor is elected and has qualified, or, if sooner, until his or her death, resignation or removal. It is our policy to encourage directors and nominees for director to attend the Annual Meeting. One of our directors attended the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Directors are elected by a plurality of all the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. Therefore, for the two directorships, the two nominees receiving the most **FOR** votes (among votes properly cast in person or by proxy) will be elected. **WITHHOLD** votes and broker non-votes, if any, will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the two nominees named below. If any nominee becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, your shares will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by our management. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected. Our management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

Nominees for Election for a Three-year Term, Expiring at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

The following is a brief biography of each director nominee.

Michela A. English. Ms. English, age 64, has served as one of our directors since August 2003. Ms. English has served as President and CEO of Fight for Children, a non-profit charitable organization focused on providing high quality education and health care services to underserved youth in Washington, D.C., since 2006. Ms. English has also been a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since June 2002, a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since June 2005 and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since January 2013. From March 1996 to March 2004, Ms. English held several positions with Discovery Communications, Inc., including president of Discovery Consumer Products, president of Discovery Enterprises Worldwide and president of Discovery.com. From 1991 to 1996, Ms. English served as senior vice president of the National Geographic Society and was a member of the National Geographic Society's Board of Trustees and Education Foundation Board. Prior to 1991, Ms. English served as vice president, corporate planning and business development for Marriott Corporation and as a senior engagement manager for McKinsey & Company. Ms. English currently serves as director of the Educational Testing Service (ETS), as a director of D.C. Preparatory Academy, a director of the District of Columbia Public Education Fund, a director of the Society for Science and the Public, a director of the National Women's Health Resource Center until December 2012, a trustee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art and Design, and as a member of the Virginia Institute

Table of Contents

of Marine Science Council. Ms. English is an emeritus member of the board of Sweet Briar College. Ms. English holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from Sweet Briar College and a Master of Public and Private Management degree from the Yale University School of Management.

Ms. English was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board and nominated to serve another directorship term due to her greater than twenty years of senior management experience at various corporations and non-profit organizations as well as her past service on our Board since August 2003.

Anthony W. Parker. Mr. Parker, age 68, has served as one of our directors since August 2003. Mr. Parker has also been a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since August 2001, a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since June 2005 and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since January 2013. Mr. Parker founded Parker Tide Corp., formerly known as Snell Professional Corp., in 1997. Parker Tide is a government contracting company providing mission critical solutions to the Federal Government. From 1992 to 1996, Mr. Parker was chairman of Capitol Resource Funding, Inc., a commercial finance company. Mr. Parker practiced corporate and tax law for over 15 years from 1980 to 1983 at Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard & McPherson, and in private practice from 1983 to 1992. From 1973 to 1977 Mr. Parker served as executive assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Parker is a director of Naval Academy Sailing Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation located in Annapolis, Maryland and as a director of the Bishop Walker School, a part of the Episcopal diocese of Washington, D.C. Mr. Parker received his J.D. and Masters in Tax Law from Georgetown Law Center and his undergraduate degree from Harvard College.

Mr. Parker was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board and nominated to serve another directorship term due to his expertise and wealth of experience in the field of corporate taxation as well as his past service on our Board since August 2003. Mr. Parker's knowledge of corporate tax was instrumental in his appointment as chairman of our Audit Committee.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR

EACH NAMED NOMINEE.

Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

The following is a brief biography of each director whose term will continue until the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Terry Lee Brubaker. Mr. Brubaker, age 70, has served as our chief operating officer and a director since our inception in 2003, as president from our inception through July 2007, when he assumed the duties of vice chairman, and as secretary from 2003 to October 2012. Mr. Brubaker has also served as the chief operating officer and a director of Gladstone Management Corporation since its inception in 2003 and was secretary from 2003 to October 2012. He also served as president of Gladstone Management Corporation from its inception until assuming the duties of vice chairman in February 2006. Mr. Brubaker has also served as chief operating officer of Gladstone Administration, LLC since its inception in 2005. Mr. Brubaker has served as the chief operating officer and a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since May 2001 and was secretary from 2003 to October 2012. He also served as president of Gladstone Capital Corporation from May 2001 through April 2004, when he assumed the duties of vice chairman. Mr. Brubaker has also been the vice chairman, chief operating officer and a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since its inception in June 2005 and was secretary from 2003 to October 2012. Mr. Brubaker has also been the vice chairman, chief operating officer and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since its inception in January 2007. In March 1999, Mr. Brubaker founded and, until May 1, 2003, served as

Table of Contents

chairman of Heads Up Systems, a company providing processing industries with leading edge technology. From 1996 to 1999, Mr. Brubaker served as vice president of the paper group for the American Forest & Paper Association. From 1992 to 1995, Mr. Brubaker served as president of Interstate Resources, a pulp and paper company. From 1991 to 1992, Mr. Brubaker served as president of IRI, a radiation measurement equipment manufacturer. From 1981 to 1991, Mr. Brubaker held several management positions at James River Corporation, a forest and paper company, including vice president of strategic planning from 1981 to 1982, group vice president of the Groveton Group and Premium Printing Papers from 1982 to 1990 and vice president of human resources development in 1991. From 1976 to 1981, Mr. Brubaker was strategic planning manager and marketing manager of white papers at Boise Cascade. Previously, Mr. Brubaker was a senior engagement manager at McKinsey & Company from 1972 to 1976. Prior to 1972, Mr. Brubaker was a U.S. Navy fighter pilot. Mr. Brubaker holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School and a BSE from Princeton University.

Mr. Brubaker was selected to serve as a director on our Board due to his more than thirty years of experience in various mid-level and senior management positions at several corporations as well as his past service on our Board since our inception.

David A.R. Dullum. Mr. Dullum, age 66, has served as one of our directors since August 2003 and our executive vice president since 2010. Mr. Dullum has also served as a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since June 2005 and president since April 2008. Mr. Dullum has also been a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since August 2001 and executive vice president since 2010. From February 2008 to present, Mr. Dullum has served as a senior managing director of Gladstone Management Corporation. Mr. Dullum also served as president and director of Harbor Acquisition Corporation (AMEX: HAC) from June 2005 through February 2008. From 1995 to mid 2009, Mr. Dullum was a partner of New England Partners, a venture capital firm focused on investments in small and medium-sized business in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. From 1976 to 1990, Mr. Dullum was a managing general partner of Frontenac Company, a Chicago-based venture capital firm. Mr. Dullum holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and a BME from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. Dullum was selected to serve as a director on our Board due to his more than thirty years of experience in various areas of the investment industry as well as his past service on our Board since August 2003.

John D. Reilly. Mr. Reilly, age 71, has served as one of our directors since January 2011. Mr. Reilly has served as a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since January 2011, a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since January 2011 and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since January 2013. Since 1987, he has served as president of Reilly Investment Corporation, where he provides advisory services to public and private companies, and financing and joint venture development. From March 1976 until April 1984 he served as principal stockholder, president and chief executive officer, of Reilly Mortgage Group, Inc., where he provided origination and construction lending and permanent loan placement of commercial real estate loans for institutional investors. In 1988, Mr. Reilly assumed the role of Executive Director, which he held until 1994. From 1971 to 1976, Mr. Reilly served as vice president of Walker & Dunlop, Inc. where he provided services for commercial loan originations, joint ventures, HUD programs and secondary marketing. From 1967 to 1969, Mr. Reilly served as a research engineer for Crane Company, and from 1964 to 1967 he served as a supply officer in the United States Navy. Mr. Reilly also served as a member of the board of directors of Beekman Helix India from 2009 to 2013, and the board of directors for Community Preservation and Development Corporation since 2006. He was a board member of Victory Housing from 2005 to 2011, and then rejoined the board in 2013. Mr. Reilly also has served as chairman of the advisory board of the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame since 1996. Mr. Reilly currently holds a D.C. Real Estate Broker License from 1973 until present.

Table of Contents

Mr. Reilly is a graduate of Mortgage Bankers School I, II and II and Income School I & II. Mr. Reilly holds a MBA from Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Mr. Reilly was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to his expertise and experience in the real estate and mortgage industry.

Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

The following is a brief biography of each director whose term will continue until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

David Gladstone. Mr. Gladstone, age 71, is our founder and has served as chief executive officer and chairman of the Board since our inception in 2003. He also founded and has served as chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors of our affiliates, including Gladstone Capital Corporation, Gladstone Investment Corporation, Gladstone Land Corporation, Gladstone Management Corporation, our Adviser, and Gladstone Administration, LLC, our Administrator. Prior to founding the Company, Mr. Gladstone served as either chairman or vice chairman of the board of directors of American Capital, Ltd. (NASDAQ: ACAS), a publicly-traded leveraged buyout fund and mezzanine debt finance company, from 1997 to 2001. From 1974 to 1997, Mr. Gladstone held various positions, including chairman and chief executive officer, with Allied Capital Corporation (NYSE: ALD), Allied Capital Corporation II, Allied Capital Lending Corporation and Allied Capital Advisors, Inc., a registered investment adviser that managed the Allied companies. The Allied companies were the largest group of publicly-traded mezzanine debt funds in the United States and were managers of two private venture capital limited partnerships. From 1991 to 1997, Mr. Gladstone served either as chairman of the board of directors or president of Allied Capital Commercial Corporation, a publicly-traded REIT that invested in real estate loans to small and medium-sized businesses, managed by Allied Capital Advisors, Inc. He managed the growth of Allied Capital Commercial from no assets at the time of its initial public offering to \$385 million in assets at the time it merged into Allied Capital Corporation in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, Mr. Gladstone served as a director, president and chief executive officer of Business Mortgage Investors, a privately-held mortgage REIT managed by Allied Capital Advisors, which invested in real estate loans to small and medium-sized businesses. Mr. Gladstone is also a past director of Capital Automotive REIT, a real estate investment trust that purchases and net leases real estate to automobile dealerships. Mr. Gladstone served as a director of The Riggs National Corporation (the parent of Riggs Bank) from 1993 to May 1997 and of Riggs Bank from 1991 to 1993. He served as a trustee of the George Washington University and currently is trustee emeritus. He is a past member of the Listings and Hearings Committee of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Mr. Gladstone was the founder and managing member of The Capital Investors, LLC, a group of angel investors, and is currently a member emeritus. Mr. Gladstone holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School, an MA from American University and a BA from the University of Virginia. Mr. Gladstone has co-authored two books on financing for small and medium-sized businesses, *Venture Capital Handbook* and *Venture Capital Investing*.

Mr. Gladstone was selected to serve as a director on our Board because he is our founder and has greater than thirty years of experience in the industry, including his past service as our chairman and chief executive since our inception.

Paul W. Adelgren. Mr. Adelgren, age 71, has been one of our directors since August 2003. From 1997 to the present, Mr. Adelgren has served as the pastor of Missionary Alliance Church. From 1991 to 1997, Mr. Adelgren was pastor of New Life Alliance Church. From 1988 to 1991, Mr. Adelgren was the comptroller,

Table of Contents

treasurer, and vice president for finance and materials of Williams & Watts, Inc., a logistics management and procurement business located in Fairfield, NJ. Prior to Joining Williams & Watts, Mr. Adelgren served in the United States Navy, where he served in a number of capacities, including as the director of the Strategic Submarine Support Department, SPCC Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, as an executive officer at the Naval Supply Center, Charleston, South Carolina and as the director of the Joint Uniform Military Pay System, Navy Finance Center. He is a retired Navy Captain. Mr. Adelgren has also served as a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since January 2003, a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since June 2005 and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since January 2013. Mr. Adelgren holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA from the University of Kansas.

Mr. Adelgren was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to his strength and experience in ethics, which also led to his appointment as chairman of our Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and his past service on our Board since August 2003.

John H. Outland. Mr. Outland, age 68, has been one of our directors since December 2003. From March 2004 to June 2006, he served as vice president of Genworth Financial, Inc. From 2002 to March 2004, Mr. Outland served as a managing director for 1789 Capital Advisors, where he provided market and transaction structure analysis and advice on a consulting basis for multifamily commercial mortgage purchase programs. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Outland served as vice president of mortgage-backed securities at Financial Guaranty Insurance Company where he was team leader for bond insurance transactions, responsible for sourcing business, coordinating credit, loan files, due diligence and legal review processes, and negotiating structure and business issues. From 1993 to 1999, Mr. Outland was senior vice president for Citicorp Mortgage Securities, Inc., where he securitized non-conforming mortgage products. From 1989 to 1993, Mr. Outland was vice president of real estate and mortgage finance for Nomura Securities International, Inc., where he performed due diligence on and negotiated the financing of commercial mortgage packages in preparation for securitization. Mr. Outland has also been a director of Gladstone Capital Corporation since December 2003, a director of Gladstone Investment Corporation since June 2005 and a director of Gladstone Land Corporation since January 2013. Mr. Outland holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. Outland was selected to serve as an independent director on our Board due to his more than twenty years of experience in the real estate and mortgage industry as well as his past service on our Board since December 2003.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Independence of the Board of Directors

As required under the NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ) listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. The Board consults with our chief compliance officer and legal counsel to ensure that the Board's determinations are consistent with relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of independent, including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of NASDAQ, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and us, our senior management and our independent registered public accounting firm, the Board has affirmatively determined that the following five current directors are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ listing standards: Messrs. Adelgren, Outland, Parker and Reilly and Ms. English. The Board also determined that former director, Mr. Earhart, was an

Table of Contents

independent director. In making this determination, the Board found that none of these directors or nominees for director had a material or other disqualifying relationship with us. Mr. Gladstone, the chairman of our Board and our chief executive officer, Mr. Brubaker, our vice chairman and chief operating officer, and Mr. Dullum, our executive vice president, are not independent directors by virtue of their positions as our officers.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board met four times during the last fiscal year. Each then current Board member attended 100% of the meetings of the Board and of the committees on which he or she served that were held during the period for which he or she was a director or committee member.

As required under applicable NASDAQ listing standards, which require regularly scheduled meetings of independent directors, in fiscal 2013, our independent directors met four times in regularly scheduled executive sessions at which only independent directors were present.

Corporate Leadership Structure

Since our inception, Mr. Gladstone has served as chairman of our Board and our chief executive officer. The Board believes that our chief executive officer is best situated to serve as chairman because he is the director most familiar with our business and industry, and most capable of effectively identifying strategic priorities and leading the discussion and execution of strategy. In addition, Mr. Adelgren, one of our independent directors, serves as the Lead Director for all meetings of our independent directors held in executive session. The Lead Director has the responsibility of presiding at all executive sessions of the Board, consulting with the chairman and chief executive officer on Board and committee meeting agendas, acting as a liaison between management and the independent directors and facilitating teamwork and communication between the independent directors and management.

The Board believes the combined role of chairman and chief executive officer, together with having an independent Lead Director, is in the best interest of stockholders because it provides the appropriate balance between strategic development and independent oversight of management.

Our Board has five committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, an Executive Committee, an Offering Committee and an Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The following table shows the current composition of each of the committees of the Board:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Executive	Offering	Ethics, Nominating & Corporate Governance
Paul W. Adelgren		X			*X
Terry Lee Brubaker			X	X	
David A. R. Dullum					
Michela English	X				
David Gladstone			*X	*X	
John H. Outland		*X			X
Anthony W. Parker	*X		X	X	
John D. Reilly	X				

* Committee Chairperson

Lead Independent Director

Table of Contents

Below is a description of each committee of the Board. All committees have the authority to engage legal counsel or other experts or consultants, as they deem appropriate to carry out their responsibilities.

The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of the Board oversees our corporate accounting and financial reporting process. For this purpose, the Audit Committee performs several functions. The Audit Committee evaluates the performance of and assesses the qualifications of the independent registered public accounting firm; determines and approves the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm; determines whether to retain or terminate the existing independent registered public accounting firm or to appoint and engage a new independent registered public accounting firm; reviews and approves the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services; monitors the rotation of partners of the independent registered public accounting firm on our audit engagement team as required by law; confers with management and the independent registered public accounting firm regarding the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting; establishes procedures, as required under applicable law, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of the Adviser or the Administrator regarding concerns of questionable accounting or auditing matters; and meets to review our annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, including reviewing our disclosures under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. During fiscal year 2013, the Audit Committee was comprised of Messrs. Parker (Chairperson) and Reilly and Ms. English. Messrs. Adelgren and Outland currently serve as alternate members of the Audit Committee. Alternate members of the Audit Committee serve and participate in meetings of the Audit Committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met eight times during the last fiscal year. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter that is available to stockholders in the Corporate Governance section of our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com.

The Board reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for Audit Committee members on an annual basis and has determined that each of Messrs. Parker, Reilly, Adelgren (alternate) and Outland (alternate) and Ms. English is independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). No members of the Audit Committee received any compensation from us during the last fiscal year other than directors' fees. The Board has also determined that each of Messrs. Parker, Reilly, Adelgren (alternate) and Outland (alternate) and Ms. English qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as defined in applicable SEC rules. The Board made a qualitative assessment of the members' level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including formal education and experience. The Board has also unanimously determined that all Audit Committee members and alternate members are financially literate under current NASDAQ rules and listing standards. In addition to our Audit Committee, Messrs. Parker and Reilly and Ms. English also serve on the audit committees of Gladstone Investment Corporation, Gladstone Capital Corporation and Gladstone Land Corporation. Our Audit Committee's alternate members, Messrs. Adelgren and Outland, also serve as alternate members on the audit committees of Gladstone Investment Corporation, Gladstone Capital Corporation and Gladstone Land Corporation. The Board has determined that this simultaneous service does not impair the respective directors' ability to effectively serve on our Audit Committee.

Table of Contents

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT¹

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements with management and PwC, our independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present. The Audit Committee included in its review results of the independent registered public accounting firm's examinations, our internal controls, and the quality of our financial reporting. The Audit Committee also reviewed our procedures and internal control processes designed to ensure full, fair and adequate financial reporting and disclosures, including procedures for certifications by our chief executive officer and chief financial officer that are required in periodic reports filed by us with the SEC. The Audit Committee further reviewed with the independent registered public accounting firm their opinion on our effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee is satisfied that our internal control system is adequate and that we employ appropriate accounting and auditing procedures.

The Audit Committee also has discussed with PwC matters relating to the independent registered public accounting firm's judgments about the quality, as well as the acceptability, of our accounting principles as applied in its financial reporting as required by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1. AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) in Rule 3200T. The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, (*Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*), as adopted by the PCAOB in Rule 3526, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the independent registered public accounting firm's independence. The Audit Committee discussed and reviewed with PwC our critical accounting policies and practices, internal controls, other material written communications to management, and the scope of PwC's audits and all fees paid to PwC during the fiscal year. The Audit Committee adopted guidelines requiring review and pre-approval by the Audit Committee of audit and non-audit services performed by PwC. The Audit Committee has reviewed and considered the compatibility of PwC's performance of non-audit services with the maintenance of PwC's independence as our independent registered public accounting firm.

Based on the Audit Committee's review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that our audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, for filing with the SEC. In addition, the Audit Committee has engaged PwC to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014.

Submitted by the Audit Committee

Anthony W. Parker, Chairperson

Michela A. English

John D. Reilly

The Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee operates pursuant to a written charter, which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com, and conducts periodic reviews of the amended and restated investment advisory agreement (the *Advisory Agreement*) with our Adviser and the

¹ The material in the foregoing audit committee report is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any of our filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act) or the Exchange Act, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filing.

Table of Contents

administration agreement (the Administration Agreement) with our Administrator, to evaluate whether the fees paid to the parties under the respective agreements are in the best interests of us and our stockholders. The committee considers in such periodic reviews, among other things, whether the performance of our Adviser and our Administrator are reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of services performed, and whether the provisions of the Advisory and Administration Agreements are being satisfactorily performed. The Compensation Committee also reviews and considers all incentive fees payable to our Adviser under the Advisory Agreement. The Compensation Committee also reviews with management our Compensation Discussion and Analysis to be included in proxy statements and other filings. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviews, approves and recommends to our Board the compensation of our non-employee directors.

During the last fiscal year, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Messrs. Outland (Chairperson), Adelgren and Earhart and is currently composed of Messrs. Outland and Adelgren, due to Mr. Earhart's recent death. Messrs. Parker and Reilly and Ms. English currently serve as alternate members of the Compensation Committee. Alternate members of the Compensation Committee serve and participate in meetings of the Compensation Committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the Compensation Committee. All members and alternate members of our Compensation Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). The Compensation Committee met four times during the last fiscal year.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During the last completed fiscal year, the Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. Adelgren, Outland, and Earhart and is currently composed of Messrs. Adelgren and Outland, due to Mr. Earhart's recent death. None of Messrs. Adelgren, Outland, or Earhart is or has been one of our officers or employees. Further, none of our executive officers has ever served as a member of the compensation committee or as a director of another entity any of whose executive officers served on our Compensation Committee, and none of our executive officers has ever served as a member of the compensation committee of another entity any of whose executive officers served on our Board.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT²

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A) contained in this proxy statement. Based on this review and discussion, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board that the CD&A be included in this proxy statement and incorporated into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

Submitted by the Compensation Committee

John H. Outland, Chairperson

Paul Adelgren

² The material in the foregoing compensation committee report is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC, and is not to be incorporated by reference into any of our filings under the 1933 Act or the Exchange Act, other than our Annual Report on Form 10-K, where it shall be deemed to be furnished, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filing.

Table of Contents

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, which is comprised of Messrs. Gladstone (Chairman), Brubaker and Parker, has the authority to exercise all powers of our Board, except for actions that must be taken by a majority of independent directors or the full Board under applicable rules and regulations. The Executive Committee did not meet during the last fiscal year.

The Offering Committee

The Offering Committee, which is comprised of Messrs. Gladstone (Chairman), Brubaker and Parker, with each of our other current and future directors who meet the independence requirements delineated in the NASDAQ listing standards serving as alternates for Mr. Parker, is responsible for assisting the Board in discharging its responsibilities regarding the offering from time to time of our securities. The Offering Committee has all powers of the Board that are necessary or appropriate and may lawfully be delegated to the Offering Committee in connection with an offering of our securities. Our Offering Committee was formed in January 2013, and operates pursuant to a written charter, which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com. The Offering Committee did not meet during the last fiscal year.

The Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Ethics Committee) of the Board is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve as our directors (consistent with criteria approved by the Board), reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, recommending to the Board for selection candidates for election to the Board, making recommendations to the Board regarding the membership of the committees of the Board, assessing the performance of the Board and developing our corporate governance principles. Our Ethics Committee operates pursuant to a written charter, which can be found in the Corporate Governance section of our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com. During the last fiscal year, the Ethics Committee was comprised of Messrs. Adelgren (Chairperson), Outland and Earhart and is currently composed of Messrs. Adelgren and Outland, due to Mr. Earhart's recent death. Messrs. Parker and Reilly and Ms. English currently serve as alternate members of the Ethics Committee. Alternate members of the committee serve and participate in meetings of the committee only in the event of an absence of a regular member of the committee. Each member and alternate member of the Ethics Committee is independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). The Ethics Committee met four times during the last fiscal year.

Qualifications for Director Candidates

The Ethics Committee believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including being able to read and understand basic financial statements, being over 21 years of age and having the highest personal integrity and ethics. The Ethics Committee also intends to consider such factors including, but not limited to, relevant expertise and ability to offer advice and guidance to management, ability to devote sufficient time to our affairs, demonstrated excellence in his or her field, ability to exercise sound business judgment and commitment to rigorously represent the long-term interests of our stockholders. However, the Ethics Committee retains the right to modify these qualifications from time to time. Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the Board, our operating requirements and the long-term interests of our stockholders. Though we have no formal policy addressing diversity, the Ethics Committee and Board believes that diversity is an important attribute of directors and that our directors should represent an array of backgrounds and experiences and should be capable of articulating a variety of viewpoints.

Table of Contents

Accordingly, the Ethics Committee considers in its review of director nominees factors such as values, disciplines, ethics, age, gender, race, culture, expertise, background and skills, all in the context of an assessment of the perceived needs of us and our Board at that point in time in order to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability.

In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Ethics Committee reviews such directors' overall service to us during their term, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance and any other relationships and transactions that might impair such directors' independence. In the case of new director candidates, the Ethics Committee also determines whether such new nominee must be independent for NASDAQ purposes, based upon applicable NASDAQ listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Ethics Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Ethics Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of the Board. The Ethics Committee meets to discuss and consider such candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to the Board by majority vote. To date, the Ethics Committee has not paid a fee to any third party to assist in the process of identifying or evaluating director candidates.

Stockholder Recommendations of Director Candidates to the Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Ethics Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Ethics Committee does not alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether the candidate was recommended by a stockholder or not. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Ethics Committee to become nominees for election to the Board may do so by timely delivering a written recommendation to the Ethics Committee at the address set forth on the cover page of this proxy statement containing the information required by our Bylaws. For nominations for election to the Board or other business to be properly brought before an Annual Meeting by a stockholder, the stockholder must comply with the advance notice provisions and other requirements of Article II, Section 4 of our Bylaws. These notice provisions require that nominations for directors must be received no earlier than February 2, 2015 (90 days before the first anniversary of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders) and no later than March 2, 2015 (60 days before the first anniversary of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders). In the event that an annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from the first anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting, notice by the stockholder, to be timely, must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 90th day prior to such annual meeting date and not later than the close of business on the later of the 60th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made.

Submissions must include the full name of the proposed nominee, a description of the proposed nominee's business experience for at least the previous five years, complete biographical information, a description of the proposed nominee's qualifications as a director and a representation that the nominating stockholder is a beneficial or record owner of our stock. Any such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected. To date, the Ethics Committee has not received or rejected a timely director nominee proposal from a stockholder.

Table of Contents

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Our Board has adopted a formal process by which our stockholders may communicate with the Board or any of its directors. Persons interested in communicating with the Board with their concerns or issues may address correspondence to the Board, to a particular director, or to the independent directors generally, in care of Gladstone Commercial Corporation, Attention: Investor Relations, at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia 22102. This information is also contained on our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted the Gladstone Commercial Corporation Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of our officers and directors and to the employees of our Adviser and our Administrator. The Ethics Committee reviews, approves and recommends to our Board any changes to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. They also review any violations of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and make recommendations to the Board on those violations, if any. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website at www.GladstoneCommercial.com. If we make any substantive amendments to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on a quarterly basis or grant any waiver from a provision of the code to any executive officer or director, we will promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver on our website, as specified above.

Oversight of Risk Management

Since September 2007, Jack Dellafiora has served as our chief compliance officer, and in that position, Mr. Dellafiora directly oversees our enterprise risk management function and reports to our chief executive officer, the Audit Committee and the Board in this capacity. In fulfilling his risk management responsibilities, Mr. Dellafiora works closely with other members of senior management including, among others, our chief executive officer, chief financial officer and treasurer, and chief operating officer.

The Board, in its entirety, plays an active role in overseeing management of our risks. The Board regularly reviews information regarding our credit, liquidity and operations, as well as the risks associated with each. Each of the following committees of the Board plays a distinct role with respect to overseeing management of our risks:

Audit Committee: Our Audit Committee oversees our enterprise risk management function. To this end, our Audit Committee meets at least annually (i) to discuss our risk management guidelines, policies and exposures and (ii) with our independent registered public accounting firm to review our internal control environment and other risk exposures;

Compensation Committee: Our Compensation Committee oversees the management of risks relating to the fees paid to our Adviser and Administrator under the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement, respectively. In fulfillment of this duty, the Compensation Committee meets at least annually to review these agreements. In addition, the Compensation Committee reviews the performance of our Adviser to determine whether the compensation paid was reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of services performed and whether the provisions of the Advisory Agreement were satisfactorily performed.

Ethics, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee: Our Ethics Committee manages risks associated with the independence of our directors and potential conflicts of interest.

While each of the aforementioned committees is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the committees each report to our Board on a regular basis to apprise our Board regarding the status of remediation efforts of known risks and of any new risks that may have arisen since the previous report.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL 2****RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board has selected PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm, which will audit our financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, and has further directed that management submit the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. PwC has audited our financial statements since our fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. Representatives of PwC are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Neither our Bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Audit Committee is submitting the selection of PwC to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of us and our stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be required to ratify the selection of PwC. Abstentions will be considered present and entitled to vote for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists, although they will not be counted for any purpose in determining whether this matter has been approved.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees

The following table represents the amount of fees capitalized or expensed by us for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2013 that were charged by PwC, our principal independent registered public accounting firm.

	2012	2013
Audit Fees	\$ 516,990	\$ 573,000
Tax Fees(1)	\$ 18,632	\$ 0
Total	\$ 535,622	\$ 573,000

- (1) Beginning in 2012, we no longer engaged PwC for services on our annual tax returns; tax fees incurred during the year were related to other tax consultations ongoing at the beginning of the year.

All fees described above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with the policies and procedures described below.

Pre-Approval Policy and Procedures

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy and procedures for the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services rendered by our independent registered public accounting firm, PwC. The policy generally pre-approves specified services in the defined categories of audit services, audit-related services and tax services up to specified amounts. Pre-approval may also be given as part of the Audit Committee's approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm or on an individual explicit case-by-case basis.

Table of Contents

before the independent registered public accounting firm is engaged to provide each service. The pre-approval of services may be delegated to one or more of the Audit Committee's members, but the decision must be reported to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The Audit Committee has determined that the rendering of the services other than audit services by PwC is compatible with maintaining the principal independent registered public accounting firm's independence.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR PROPOSAL 2.**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF****CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of our common stock as of March 4, 2014, by: (i) each director and nominee for director; (ii) each of our named executive officers; (iii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group; and (iv) all those known by us to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock. Except as otherwise noted, the address of the individuals below is c/o Gladstone Commercial Corporation, 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, VA 22102.

Beneficial Owner	Beneficial Ownership(1)	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Total
Directors:		
Paul Adलगren	4,650	*
Terry Lee Brubaker	0	
David A.R. Dullum	0	
Michela A. English	2,111	*
David Gladstone	466,564	2.96%
John H. Outland	1,637	*
Anthony W. Parker	21,121	*
John D. Reilly	2,000	*
Named Executive Officers (that are not directors)		
Robert Cutlip	10,500	*
Danielle Jones	275	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (10 persons)	508,858	3.23%
Over 5% Stockholders		
Blackrock, Inc.		
40 East 52nd Street		
New York, NY 10022	889,787(2)	5.65%

* Less than 1%

(1) This table is based upon information supplied by officers, directors and principal stockholders. Unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes to this table and subject to community property laws where applicable,

Table of Contents

we believe that each of the stockholders named in this table has sole voting and sole investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned. Percentages are determined in accordance with SEC rules and regulations and are based upon 15,748,114 shares of common stock outstanding on March 4, 2014.

(2) Based on a Schedule 13G filed by Blackrock, Inc. with the SEC on January 29, 2014.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of common stock and our other equity securities. Officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms that they file.

To our knowledge, based solely upon a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and written representations that no other reports were required during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, our officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements, with the exception of a late Form 4 filed on December 13, 2013 by David Gladstone for the purchase of 10,000 shares of common stock on December 10, 2013.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Set forth below are our executive officers.

Executive Officer

David Gladstone
Terry L. Brubaker
Robert Cutlip
Danielle Jones

Title

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer
President
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

The biographies of Messrs. Gladstone and Brubaker are set forth under Directors Continuing In Office Until the 2016 Annual Meeting. Set forth below are brief biographies of Mr. Cutlip and Ms. Jones, our only executive officers who are not also directors.

Robert Cutlip. Mr. Cutlip, age 64, was appointed our president in June 2012. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Cutlip was Managing Director of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions with Sealy & Company, LLC, a vertically integrated real estate operating company. Mr. Cutlip was also a founding principal of Attentus Advisors, a real estate advisory consulting firm, in January 2009. From March 2006 to December 2008, Mr. Cutlip was a Managing Director and then Executive Vice President of North American Operations with First Industrial Realty Trust, Inc., a publicly traded industrial real estate investment trust. Previous to that, Mr. Cutlip held various management positions with Highwoods Properties, Inc. and Duke-Weeks Realty Corporation, both publicly traded real estate investment trusts. Mr. Cutlip has over 27 years of experience sourcing acquisitions, underwriting transactions, negotiating and executing development transactions, and overseeing asset management plan execution. He is currently a member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), a trade association for developers, owners and investors in industrial office and related commercial real estate. At NAIOP he has held a number of positions, including, National Chairman in 2006, Chairman of NAIOP Research Foundation in 2011 and as a member of the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate

Table of Contents

Credit and Capital Advisory Board in 2011. He is also currently a member of NAIOP's Industrial Forum. Mr. Cutlip received a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the US Air Force Academy, an MS in Civil Engineering from Vanderbilt University and an MBA in Finance from University of Southern California.

Danielle Jones. Ms. Jones, age 36, was appointed to serve as our chief financial officer in December 2008 and, most recently, as treasurer in January 2012. Ms. Jones also serves as the chief financial officer and treasurer of Gladstone Land Corporation. Since July 2004, Ms. Jones has served us in various accounting capacities including most recently that of controller. From January 2002 to June 2004, Ms. Jones was employed by AvalonBay Communities, where she worked in the corporate accounting division. Prior to that, she was employed by American Express Tax & Business Services. Ms. Jones received a B.B.A. in accounting from James Madison University and is a licensed CPA with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

None of our executive officers receive direct compensation from us. We do not currently have any employees and do not expect to have any employees in the foreseeable future. The services necessary for the operation of our business are provided to us by our officers and the other employees of our Adviser and Administrator, pursuant to the terms of the Advisory and Administration Agreements, respectively.

Mr. Gladstone, our chairman and chief executive officer, Mr. Brubaker, our vice chairman and chief operating officer, and Mr. Cutlip, our president, are all employees of and compensated directly by our Adviser. Ms. Jones, our chief financial officer and treasurer is an employee of our Administrator. Under the Administration Agreement, we reimburse our Administrator for our allocable portion of Ms. Jones' compensation. During our last fiscal year, our allocable portion of Ms. Jones' compensation paid by our Administrator was approximately \$79,600 of her salary, \$31,700 of her bonus, and \$13,900 of the cost of her benefits.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, we incurred total fees of approximately \$2.8 million to our Adviser under the Advisory Agreement and \$1.5 million to our Administrator under the Administration Agreement. For a discussion of the terms of our Advisory and Administration Agreements, see Transactions With Related Persons.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following table shows for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, certain information with respect to the compensation of all our non-executive directors:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Total
Paul W. Adelgren	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000
Terry Earhart	32,000	32,000
Michela A. English	31,000	31,000
John H. Outland	33,000	33,000
Anthony W. Parker	35,000	35,000
John D. Reilly	32,000	32,000

Table of Contents

As compensation for serving on our Board, each of our independent directors receives an annual fee of \$20,000, an additional \$1,000 for each Board meeting attended, and an additional \$1,000 for each committee meeting attended. In addition, the chairperson of the Audit Committee receives an annual fee of \$3,000, and the chairpersons of each of the Compensation and Ethics committees receive annual fees of \$1,000 for their additional services in these capacities. In addition, we reimburse our directors for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with their board service, including those incurred for attendance at Board and committee meetings.

We do not pay any compensation to directors who also serve as our officers, or as officers or directors of our Adviser or our Administrator, in consideration for their service on our Board. Our Board may change the compensation of our independent directors in its discretion upon the recommendation of our Compensation Committee. None of our independent directors received any compensation from us during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 other than for Board or committee service and meeting fees.

TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

Advisory and Administration Agreements

Under the Advisory Agreement, our Adviser is responsible for our daily operations and administration, record keeping and regulatory compliance functions. Specifically, these responsibilities include (i) identifying, evaluating, negotiating and consummating all investment transactions consistent with our investment objectives and criteria; (ii) providing us with all required records and regular reports to our Board concerning our Adviser's efforts on our behalf; and (iii) maintaining compliance with all regulatory requirements applicable to us. The Advisory Agreement provides for an annual base management fee equal to 2% of our total stockholders' equity (less the recorded value of any preferred stock) and an incentive fee based on our FFO, which rewards our Adviser if our quarterly FFO (before giving effect to any incentive fee) exceeds 1.75% (7% annualized) of our total stockholders' equity (less the recorded value of any preferred stock). Our Adviser has the ability to issue a full or partial waiver of the incentive fee and may do so to maintain the current level of distributions to our stockholders. For the year ended December 31, 2013, an unconditional and irrevocable voluntary waiver of the incentive fee was issued by our Adviser for \$3.5 million.

Under the Administration Agreement, we pay separately for administrative services, which payments are generally equal to our allocable portion of our Administrator's overhead expenses in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent for the space occupied by our Administrator, and our allocable portion of the salaries and benefits expenses of our chief financial officer and treasurer, chief compliance officer, internal counsel and secretary and their respective staffs.

Each of David Gladstone and Terry Lee Brubaker serve as an officer and director of ours and of each of our Adviser and our Administrator. David Dullum and Robert Cutlip are employed by our Adviser as executive managing directors. Michael LiCalsi, our internal counsel and secretary, also has served as the president of the Administrator since July 2013. Danielle Jones, our chief financial officer and treasurer, is also the chief financial officer and treasurer of Gladstone Land Corporation, an agricultural real estate company that is an affiliate of ours. David Gladstone is the indirect controlling stockholder of each of our Adviser and Administrator. Although we believe that the terms of the Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement are no less favorable to us than those that could be obtained from unaffiliated third parties in arms length transactions, our Adviser, its officers and its directors have a material interest in the terms of these agreements.

Table of Contents

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013, we accrued total fees of \$2.8 million payable to our Adviser under the Advisory Agreement and \$1.5 million payable to our Administrator under the Administration Agreement.

Loan

As of December 31, 2013, we had a loan outstanding in the principal amount of \$375,000 to Laura Gladstone, a managing director of our Adviser and the daughter of our chief executive officer, Mr. Gladstone. This loan was executed in connection with the exercise of stock options under the 2003 Equity Incentive Plan by Ms. Gladstone and was made on terms available to all eligible participants of the 2003 Equity Incentive Plan. The 2003 Equity Incentive Plan was terminated on December 31, 2006. The interest rate on the loan is 8.15%, and the outstanding principal amount of the loan is due and payable in cash on November 21, 2015. During the year ended December 31, 2013, an aggregate of \$30,563 in interest was paid on the loan. Mr. Gladstone has not received, nor will he receive in the future, any direct or indirect benefit from this loan.

Conflict of Interest Policy

We have adopted policies to reduce potential conflicts of interest. In addition, our directors are subject to certain provisions of Maryland law that are designed to minimize conflicts. Under our current conflict of interest policy, without the approval of a majority of disinterested directors, we will not:

acquire from or sell to any of our officers, directors or employees of our Adviser or our Administrator, or any entity in which any of our officers, directors or such employee has an interest of more than 5%, any assets or other property;

make any loan to or borrow from any of our directors, officers or employees of our Adviser or our Administrator, or any entity, in which any of our officers, directors or such employee has an interest of more than 5%;

grant warrants or options to purchase our stock to any of our directors, officers or employees of our Adviser or our Administrator, or any entity in which any of our officers, directors or such employee has an interest of more than 5%, except pursuant to the company's equity incentive plans; or

engage in any other transaction with any of our directors, officers or employees of our Adviser or our Administrator, or any entity in which any of our directors, officers or such employee has an interest of more than 5% (except that our Adviser may lease office space in a building that we own, provided that the rental rate under the lease is determined by our independent directors to be at a fair market rate).

Where allowed by applicable rules and regulations, from time to time we may enter into transactions with our Adviser or one or more of its affiliates. A majority of our independent directors and a majority of our directors not otherwise interested in a transaction with our Adviser must approve all such transactions with our Adviser or its affiliates.

It is our current policy that we will not purchase any property from or co-invest with our Adviser, any of its affiliates or any business in which our Adviser or any of its subsidiaries have invested except that we may make leases to existing and prospective portfolio companies of entities advised by our Adviser, as long as the portfolio company is not controlled by that entity and the transaction is approved by both companies' boards. If we decide to change this policy on co-investments with our Adviser or its affiliates, we will seek approval of this decision from our stockholders.

Table of Contents

Indemnification

In our Charter and Bylaws, we have agreed to indemnify our directors and certain of our officers by providing, among other things, that we will indemnify such officer or director, under the circumstances and to the extent provided for therein, for expenses, damages, judgments, fines and settlements he or she may be required to pay in actions or proceedings, which he or she is or may be made a party by reason of his or her position as a director, officer or other agent of ours, and otherwise to the fullest extent permitted under Maryland law and our Bylaws. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the indemnification provisions shall not protect any officer or director from liability to us or our stockholders as a result of any action that would constitute willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of such officer's or director's duties, or reckless disregard of his or her obligations and duties.

Each of the Advisory and Administration Agreements provides that, absent willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of their duties or by reason of the reckless disregard of their duties and obligations, our Adviser, our Administrator and their respective officers, managers, agents, employees, controlling persons, members and any other person or entity affiliated with them are entitled to indemnification from us for any damages, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and amounts reasonably paid in settlement) arising from the rendering of our Adviser's or our Administrator's services under the current Advisory or Administration Agreements, respectively, or otherwise as an investment adviser of ours.

HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (e.g., brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for the Notice or other proxy materials with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single copy of the Notice or other proxy materials addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are Gladstone Commercial Corporation stockholders will be "householding" our proxy materials. A single Notice will be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that they will be "householding" communications to your address, "householding" will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in "householding" and would prefer to receive a separate Notice, please notify your broker or us. Direct your written request to Investor Relations at 1521 Westbranch Drive, Suite 100, McLean, Virginia, 22102 or call our toll-free investor relations line at 1-866-366-5745. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the Notice at their addresses and would like to request "householding" of their communications should contact their brokers. In addition, we will promptly deliver, upon written or oral request to the address or telephone number above, a separate copy of the Notice to a stockholder at the address to which a single copy of the Notice was delivered.

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

The Board knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Michael LiCalsi

Secretary

March 21, 2014

Table of Contents

Table of Contents