

MINUTES  
Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Waynesboro Committee  
5 July 2016, Susan Komen offices, Roanoke VA  
10 AM – 11:30 AM

Members Present: Janet Scheid (chair), Gene Smith, Tom Benzing, Greg Hitchin (on phone), Joe Keiper (staff), Ryan Barber (staff)

Janet Scheid called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

The goals and the composition of the proposed Waynesboro Advocacy Committee (WAC) were discussed. This committee would be the successor of the Waynesboro Committee, and Scheid will announce the completion of the assigned tasks for the Waynesboro Committee at the August 2016 Board Meeting.

Composition of the WAC will include VMNH Executive Director Joe Keiper, museum Trustees Tom Benzing and Gene Smith, and selected citizens of Waynesboro and the surrounding region. New to the VMNH-Foundation is Mike Harris and it was suggested that he should be on the committee. Keiper and Barber will assemble a list to be vetted with the members of the Waynesboro Committee.

The goals of the WAC will be to meet with local and state elected officials to advocate for continued support of the proposed Waynesboro Campus. They will communicate with the newly elected members of Waynesboro City Council, and will also reach out to staffers for Delegate Bell, Delegate Landes, and Senator Hanger. Elected officials from other areas such as Staunton and Charlottesville will also be targeted for advocacy as a VMNH presence in Waynesboro will benefit those cities as well.

Keiper will prepare a memo for the Secretary of Natural Resources outlining our continued pursuit of establishing a Waynesboro Campus. The WAC will schedule a meeting with Secretary Ward in September.

Hitchin will advocate for the Waynesboro Campus when he meets with City Council.

It was discussed that August and September would be the best time to reach out to elected officials.

Based on the above discussions, the remaining members of the WAC should include someone from Waynesboro (either staff or an elected official) and Greg Hitchin volunteered. Keiper and Ryan were tasked with putting together a list of prospects for inclusion on the WAC.

Keiper and Ryan will organize a letter writing campaign, with suggested text, with the help of Rotary, Kiwanis, the Newcomers Club, and the Waynesboro Art Club.

Benzing gave an overview of the programs, budget, and staffing of the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education. The budget was similar to the proposed annual operating budget for the Waynesboro Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Scheid  
Secretary  
Chair of the Waynesboro Committee  
VMNH Board of Trustees