

MINUTES
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 5, 2016

The one hundred eleventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, Virginia. Thirteen of the fifteen Trustees participated.

Trustees Present:	James Severt, Chairman	Barry Dorsey, Vice-Chairman
	Christine Baggerly, Treasurer	Tom Benzing
	Jennifer Burnett	Faye Cooper
	Cord Cothren	Arthur Evans
	Tiffany Haworth	Lisa Moerner
	Monica Monday	Gene Smith
	Mary Voigt	

Trustees Absent:	Makunda Abdul-Mbacke	Janet Scheid
------------------	----------------------	--------------

Staff Present:	Joe Keiper, Executive Director	Ryan Barber
	Jim Beard	Denny Casey
	Cindy Gray	Gloria Niblett

Others Present:	Elizabeth Griffin, Virginia Attorney General's Office
	Jim Burton, Carter + Burton Architecture P.L.C.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

James Severt, board chairman, called the meeting to order at 10 am.

New trustees Faye Cooper and Lisa Moerner were introduced to the Board.

Dr. Evans moved that the minutes of the August 20, 2016 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Monday seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Severt thanked and commended the staff for its commitment to the museum, as demonstrated in the success of the previous evening's Open House.

Treasurer's Report

Christine Baggerly turned the floor over to Dr. Keiper to give the first quarter financial report.

- Admission fees were raised from \$7 to \$9 for adults and from \$3 to \$5 for children and seniors. Over 2,000 specimens have been added to the galleries.
- Publications income is at 85% of budget due to high sales of *Geology of Virginia*.
- Room rentals and Gift Shop income are on target for the quarter.
- Repair and Construction expense is up due to lightning damage done to the chiller and security system. A claim will be filed with insurance.
- The museum was asked to submit a 5% budget cut strategy. The actual cut was closer to 2%. A 7 ½% strategy request has been received for next year. Cuts have delayed the hiring of the Curator of Herpetology position.

Executive Director's Report

Joe Keiper gave an overview of his written report.

- *The Geology of Virginia* is selling well.
- The Smithsonian has donated to VMNH a full *Stegosaurus*. The animal, which had been on display at the Smithsonian for 99 years, will make its VMNH debut at our Dino Day Festival in July.
- Waynesboro Project: We are preparing a \$250,000 ask of the General Assembly to pay for specific exhibit design and constructions plans.
- Ryan Barber gave an overview of his written report and a list of upcoming events.
- The museum is looking into a Point of Sale system for the Box Office.
- Giving levels have been added to Discovery Fund. Donors will be recognized on the VMNH website.

Facilities Committee Report

Barry Dorsey presented the Facilities Committee Report.

- Repairs to the roof and HVAC system have been made at the Douglas Avenue building.
- Door hinges, carpet and tile are being replaced at the Starling Avenue facility.

Dr. Dorsey introduced Jim Burton with Carter + Burton Architecture to give a report on the proposed Education Pavilion.

- Pavilion renderings were presented for board review.
- The firm looked at developing space for 3 ½ seasons use.

Dr. Dorsey moved that the board approve the concept of the Pavilion in consultation with the Foundation Board. Mr. Cothren seconded, the motion carried.

The Facilities Committee will meet and work with the architect and the Foundation's Corporate Committee to determine the specific elements needed.

Mr. Dorsey stated that his goal is keep cost between \$150,000 - \$160,000 and to see the Pavilion opened in 2018.

Development Committee Report

Christine Baggerly presented the Development Committee Report.

- The committee is working on ways to obtain statewide funding by using value proposition tactics for various types of companies.
- Working on connecting with independent schools. Dr. Casey and Dr. Beard attended the VAIS Conference.
- Working on getting additional educators in northern and southwest Virginia, or creating some partnerships there.

Research and Collections Committee Report

Monica Monday presented the Research and Collections Committee report.

- The Committee reviewed and approved acquisitions from last quarter.
- Adult curator Camp had 17 participants.
- Research Staff presented 52 outreach programs last quarter.
- 500 copies of *The Geology of Virginia* have been sold.
- Staff is working on an IMLS grant to hire a company to transport the rock core that has been stored in Pittsylvania County since 1990 to Martinsville. The core will be stored in the annex of the Douglas Avenue facility.

Education and Public Programs Report

Barry Dorsey turned the floor over to Dr. Casey to give the Education and Public Programs report.

- Dr. Casey is working with Ferrum College in applying for a State Council on Higher Education grant.
- Sleepovers continue to expand.
- Susan Walton, Eastern Outreach Educator, attended the Poquoson Seafood Festival in October. A grant was received to pay for her attendance and educational programs.
- VMNH will host a STEM showcase in April 2017 for 3rd – 5th graders.

New Business

The board discussed holding a retreat at its May meeting. It was decided to hold the retreat in Martinsville.

Mr. Severt thanked Dr. Evans for his contribution of specimens to the museum.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Scheid
Secretary

James W. Severt, II
Chairman