

Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Facilities Committee Meeting  
Agenda  
November 16, 2024

- I. Welcome
- II. Minutes
- III. Ongoing projects
  - a. Douglas Avenue
  - b. Starling Avenue
  - c. VMNH – W Mobile Science Trailer
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
- VI. Open Discussion
- VII. Adjourn

Minutes  
August 10, 2024  
Danville Science Center

Attending:

(Present): Dr. Tom Benzing, Mark Buss, Abby Gump, Lisa Carter, Jennifer Burnett, Lauren Woodson, Ryan Barber (staff), Joe Keiper (staff), Marcus James (staff), Jonathan Martin (staff).

I. Welcome

- Tom called the meeting to order by 8:30 AM.

II. Minutes

- The last quarter's minutes were not reviewed or approved.

III. Ongoing Projects

a. Douglas Avenue Reorganization

- Reorganizing space allocation for the collections and the necessary utilities such as HVAC, plumbing, water, and electrical systems.

b. Pavilion & Stairway

- The Pavilion is progressing, with concrete work scheduled for next week.
- Discussions centered on the design and aesthetics of the stairway, including the possibility of painting risers to create a cohesive image when viewed from Oakdale Avenue.
- The committee explored ideas such as a trout stream image and agreed on the need to reach out to an artist with spatial acuity skills.

c. Efficacy of New Elevator and Water System

- The new elevator and water pump installed last year have been functioning well, resolving previous issues with overheating and water pressure during peak times.

d. Maintenance on Starling Ave.

- Addressed the issues with the VMNH parking lot and repaired the pavement holes left from past tent installations.

#### IV. Future Considerations

##### a. Status of YMCA

- The committee discussed a potential acquisition of the YMCA building beside VMNH on Starling Ave.
- The committee also noted the need to explore real estate transfer options.
- The committee agreed to keep this opportunity on the table while waiting for further details on the property.

##### b. Discussions with the City Regarding Park and Canopy Walk

- Martinsville City Council has expressed interest in collaborating with VMNH on plans to enhance Wilson Park, including the proposed canopy walk.
- The project could have potential for funding through the Tobacco Commission and Harvest Foundation.

#### V. Open Discussion

- Tom briefly discussed the upcoming exhibit at the South River Preserve, which will feature 3D-printed models to enhance the visitor experience.
- Preparations are also underway for the Fall Foliage Fest in October, with a collaborative effort between the museum, Dominion, and the City of Waynesboro.

#### VI. Adjournment

- Tom called the meeting to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 AM.