



AGENDA

Facilities Committee

Saturday, May 16, 2026 - 8:30 AM

Virginia Museum of Natural History

Entirely Electronic Meeting

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| 1. Welcome | Dr. Tom Benzing |
| 2. Approval of Minutes | Dr. Benzing |
| a. August 9, 2025 | |
| b. November 15, 2025 | |
| 3. Ongoing Projects | Dr. Joe Keiper, |
| a. Douglas Avenue | Mr. Jonathan Martin |
| b. Library and hallway renovation | Mr. Ryan Barber |
| c. VMNH – Waynesboro Mobile
Science Outreach Trailer | |
| 4. Future Considerations | |
| a. Facilities Strategic Plan | |
| 5. Open Discussion | |
| 6. Adjournment | Dr. Benzing |

Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees
Saturday, August 9, 2025
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Executive Conference Room 236 with remote participation option



Present In-person: Dr. Tom Benzing (Chair)
Dr. David Furth
Ms. Lauren Hall
Dr. Joe Keiper (ex officio)

Mr. Ryan Barber (Staff)
Mr. Jonathan Martin (Staff)
Ms. Lauren Coleman (AG Representative)

Present Remotely: Ms. Lisa Carter

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Benzing called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. It was determined there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Benzing asked the committee to review the 5.18.24, 8.10.24, 11.16.24, 2.1.25, and 5.17.25 minutes as presented. Hearing no corrections, Dr. Benzing declared the minutes from the 5.18.24, 8.10.24, 11.16.24, 2.1.25 and 5.17.25 meetings approved.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Dr. Benzing urged the committee to carefully review the plan to make sure all expectations are met by the architect.

Mr. Martin reported the asbestos abatement study results for the Douglas Avenue project were better than expected. Abatement work will be paid for by maintenance reserve fund.

The contract for improvements to the Starling Avenue HVAC system is currently out.

Museum staff are hopeful that the former library shelving will be purchased soon.

After seeking contracts with several Virginia providers, a Pennsylvania company (Aardvark), specializing in Mobile Science units, has been contacted to repair the Mobile Science Center.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Dr. Keiper reported that a full staff meeting was held to consider options for the future expansion of the Starling Avenue facility. The goal was to think from the inside out. Answering the question, what are our needs based on what we've already got.

Ms. Carter asked about the status of the adjoining YMCA property. Mr. Keiper replied that fundraising is going slower than originally thought. The timeline for that project will likely be delayed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The committee expressed appreciation and anticipation of the new pavilion use.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Benzing adjourned the meeting at 8:52 AM.

**VMNH Board of Trustees
Facilities Committee
Saturday, November 15, 2025
Executive Director's Conference Room with remote option**

Trustees Present: Dr. Tom Benzing (Chair)

Trustees Present Remotely: Dr. David Furth (distance)

Trustees Not Present: Ms. Lisa Carter
Ms. Lauren Hall

Staff Present: Dr. Joe Keiper (Executive Director)
Mr. Jonathan Martin
Mr. Ryan Barber
Ms. Jennifer Whitlow

Others Present: Ms. Ambria Wood (OAG Representative)

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Tom Benzing welcomed the committee and those online at 8:30 AM. No quorum was present.

MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum, no votes could be taken on August minutes. These minutes will be approved at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Dr. Keiper started the meeting with a report of ongoing projects at the Starling Ave. facility. He highlighted two projects that will utilize Maintenance Reserve funds. The first is a project in the planning phase to include the replacement of aging floor covering and hallway wallpaper in the area outside the future Young Explorers Center. The second project is ongoing work to improve the efficiency of the building's HVAC system by replacing a critical lever which controls air handling. During the Esco project approximately five years ago, some (not all) of the levers were replaced. This initiative will replace all of them.

Mr. Jonathan Martin gave an update about the schematic design work currently occurring for the Douglas Ave. project. A total cost estimate of \$743,000.00 was recently received. This includes a \$427,000.00 estimate for finishes. Staff feel this cost is not in line with our needs and will be thoroughly reviewing the finishes estimate room by room with the architect. Asbestos abatement is

not included in this most recent estimate and will be handled as a separate Maintenance Reserve project.

Mr. Ryan Barber gave a status update about renovations of the Young Explorers Center space. A contractor has been secured to dismantle library shelving December 8-12. The shelving will be stored until renovations are complete, after which time the freestanding shelves will be reinstalled at Douglas Ave. The next steps include painting walls, hallway work, and design of the Young Explorers Center. Mr. Barber noted more information will be presented during the full board meeting later today.

The Waynesboro trailer is currently in North Carolina at a trailer repair facility. The repair company, Spevco, evaluated the trailer and reported that the chassis is rusted. They have also evaluated the electrical system, new wrap, and several other necessary items to make the mobile unit safe and desirable for visitors. We have received a preliminary estimate and are awaiting an itemized cost list. The scope of work includes getting the trailer back to Waynesboro and set-up. Even with renovations, it is likely that the trailer is no longer mobile and once set up in Waynesboro will be stationary. Dr. Benzing suggested that staff consider a rebrand moving away from the “mobile” museum concept.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Dr. Keiper reported the new exhibits manager starts on Monday.

Lastly, he reported that the pavilion is being utilized by our educators, and the space has potential for future exhibits. Dr. Benzing noted the new Exhibits Manager may need to sit Ex Officio on the Education Committee.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. Benzing encouraged new members to find their place on a committee. With several vacant Board seats, someone with facility experience may be desirable to contribute to the Facilities Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.