

**Board of Trustees
Facilities Committee
Saturday, May 16, 2026
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Remote Only**



MINUTES

The Facilities Committee of the Virginia Museum of Natural History Board of Trustees held their quarterly meeting remotely at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 16.

BOT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Tom Benzing (Chair) Dr. David Furth
Mr. Dick Bratcher Ms. Lauren Hall

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ryan Barber Dr. Joe Keiper (Exec. Director)
Mr. Jonathan Martin Ms. Ambria Wood (OAG Rep)
Mr. Tim King Mr. Zach Ryder

WELCOME

Dr. Tom Benzing called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM with a welcome. It was determined a quorum was present for the electronic meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes from August 9, 2025, and November 15, 2026, were approved with no corrections.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Douglas Avenue - Project is in progress. Phase one of asbestos removal is ready to begin and is contingent upon the contractor's schedule. Phase 2 including HVAC is in the working drawings phase. The timeline for completion of the project is still unknown. The committee will be informed of progress and notified when room allocation should again be discussed.
- Library and Hallway Renovation – Painting is complete. Both flooring and lighting contracts have been awarded. The lighting contractor is expected to begin work in the next two weeks. The new flooring should be installed within the next two months.
- VMNH – Waynesboro Mobile Outreach Trailer – Solar panels have been installed to run everything except the HVAC unit in the trailer while efforts to permanently provide electricity to the trailer continue. Volunteers and staff welcomed 775 visitors during Riverfest. This summer volunteers will man the trailer each Saturday.
- Ongoing – Many projects continue on the Starling Avenue building. Mr. Tim King reported Building and Grounds staff are being trained on HVAC features as components are replaced and upgraded. The camera system upgrade was completed.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Facilities Strategic Plan – Mr. Dick Bratcher noted the need to include facility management as part of the overall museum strategic plan. As such, staff will pivot to proactively maintaining systems in the museum and look toward capital projects with intention.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- An update/report of the proposed schematic to the Douglas Avenue facility will be presented in August.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Benzing adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM

The next meeting of the Facilities Committee will be held on:
Saturday, August 15, 2026, at 8:30 AM

DRAFT