Frontier Culture Museum Board of Trustees
Executive Committee – Administration Building Conference Room
Draft Minutes
June 24, 2026 2 p.m.

Members Attending: John Avoli, Steve Landes, Ned Ruby, Peggy Sheets, Paul Vames

Members Absent:

Guests Attending:

Staff Attending: Lydia Volskis

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes — Mrs. Peggy Sheets

Board and Committee Chair Peggy Sheets called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Mr. Avoli made a motion that the Committee approve the last three sets of minutes from thr March 25, March 30 and April 2 meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Landes, there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
Mrs. Sheets said that Mr. Smiley's last day before retiring will be June 30th, and that she and senior staff will host a lunch to celebrate his retirement on Monday the 28th at the depot. She imvited any Committee Members who would like to attend to meet the group at noon on Monday. New Executive Director Robin von Seldeneck will start work on Monday July 6 and Deputy Director Cliff Edwards will oversee the Museum during the interim period.
Mr. Avoli asked about the upcoming role for the Executive Committee, and noted that the full committee should be involved in any major decisions, to provide stability for the agency as well as the staff and Executive Director. Mrs. Sheets said that there will be a mini retreat/strategic planning session in late August oir early September which will possibly include an outside facilitator. There will also be a l ate August/early September Executive Committee meeting to prepare for the October 2 Board of Trustees meeting.

II. Fiscal Office changes — Mrs. Sheets

Mrs. Sheets reported that Fiscal Director Chase Chandler has moved on for another position, ans that Director of Special Projects Eric Bryan will serve as interim Finance Director until the new Director is here and a search initiated.

III. Temporary Exhibit Plan 3-5 years — Mrs. Sheets

Mrs. Sheets reported that work on the permanent gallery wil be mostly complete in late July and work on the temporary gallery will begin. She noted that three Trustees (herself, Mr. Rob Orrison and Mr. Steven Wilson) as well as the international committee of scholars have reviewed all of

the gallery materials and test since the beginning of the project. Several staff attended the American Alliance of Museums Expo in Philadelphia recently, and viewed various examples of exhibit equipment and items for the temporary exhibit space. Traveling exhibit will likely fill the space and the Museum must generate a 3-5 year plan as these types of exhibits must be reserved years in advance. Museum staff have identified two potential exhibits for initial use.

IV. Museum Representation at Ulster Symposium Mrs. Sheets

Director of Special Projects Eric Bryan presented at a symposium at the Ulster American Folk Park in Northern Ireland, nd was able to reestablish connections with staff there who the Museum had formerly been in contact with.

V. Archival Donations and Collections Policy Mrs. Sheets

Mrs. Sheets explained that archival donations, which are not a part of the Museum's permanent collection, will need a new policy. Staff will begin work to prepare a draft for approval by the Board of Trustees.

VI. Miscellaneous Items Mrs. Sheets

In Foundation news, Ann won a matching grant for $100,000 from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation. The Foundation has until September to match the funds. She also secured another grant for $150,000. In May, the Charles Fund has asked for a $100,000 proposal from the Foundation. Mrs. Sheets met with representatives frm First Bank who may donate $50,000 to the Foundation. She also reported that Mr. To Hand, whose Foundation donated funds for the signage on site, may be interested in becoming a major donor; the Foundation will need to prepare a plan for this.

VII. Closed Session (if needed) Committee

At 2:25 Mr. Landes said:
I move that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia enter closed session for:

1. *Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, pursuant to the exemption in Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(5), and related to the potential sale or lease of real property conveyed by the Museum to the American Frontier Culture Foundation.*
   and
2. *Discussion of the assignment, appointment, performance, salary, or resignation of a specific employee pursuant to the exemption in Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1), specifically related to the Executive Director.*

At 2:45 Mr. Avoli said:
I move that the Committee reenter open session.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Landes, there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Avoli said:
Whereas, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia convened in closed meeting on June 24, 2026 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3712, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge:

> *(1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law, and*
> *(2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened*

were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Landes, all Members verbally affirmed that no other topics hd been discussed, there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting date **Committee**

The next meeting date will be in late August or early September. TBD.

IX. Adjournment Mrs. Sheets

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.