

## **Board of Trustees – Called Meeting**

**Friday, August 22, 2025, 2 PM**

**Remote Participation Only**

Present:           Dr. Melany Clark (Chair)           Dr. David Furth  
                      Ms. Lauren Hall                    Ms. Cathy Hincker  
                      Dr. Art Evans                         Ms. Lisa Carter  
                      Dr. Tom Benzing                    Mr. Nathan Sanford

Staff Present:    Dr. Joe Keiper (Executive Director)  
                      Ms. Jennifer Whitlow  
                      Mr. Zach Ryder

Others Present:  Ms. Lauren Coleman (OAG Representative)

Trustees Absent: Mr. Will Clements  
                      Ms. Carol Nash  
                      Ms. Emma Ito

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History held a remote meeting on Friday, August 22, 2025. Eight trustees were present, thereby establishing a quorum.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Evans moved and Ms. Carter seconded to approve the minutes from the 5.17.25 and the 8.9.25 Board of Trustees meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Carter made a motion with a second by Ms. Hall to approve the consent agenda as presented on today's agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Hall made the following motion to move to closed session.

*I move that the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History enter closed session to discuss the assignment, appointment, performance and salary of a specific employee, particularly to conduct the annual performance review of the Executive*

*Director, pursuant to the personnel exemption in Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1), and for consultation with legal counsel regarding the same pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8).*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Benzing. A unanimous roll call vote followed.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Following the closed session, Ms. Hall made a motion with a second by Dr. Benzing to return to open session. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

## **CERTIFICATION**

After which, Ms. Hall read the certification statement:

*Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum on Natural History convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

*Whereas, Virginia code §2.2-3712 requires certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.*

*NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History 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 Virginia Museum of Natural History.*

A roll call vote was held to unanimously certify the closed session.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Ms. Hall moved that the Chair of the Board work with appropriate staff to follow through on the personnel matters discussed, consistent with the discussion held in the closed session. Dr. Benzing seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business or discussion, Dr. Clark adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

The next meeting of the  
Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Board of Trustees will be:  
Saturday, November 15, 2025  
Virginia Museum of Natural History  
21 Starling Ave., Martinsville, VA 24112