

**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.