



**Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees**  
**Saturday, February 1, 2025**  
**Virginia Museum of Natural History**  
**Executive Director's Conference Room 236 with remote participation option**

Present In-person: Dr. Tom Benzing (Chair)  
Ms. Lisa Carter  
Ms. Abby Gump (Attorney General's Office)  
Ms. Lauren Coleman (Attorney General's Office)  
Dr. Joe Keiper (Executive Director, ex officio)  
Ms. Jennifer Whitlow (minutes)

Present Remotely: Ms. Lauren Hall

Absent: Ms. Jennifer Burnett  
Cord Cothren

Dr. Tom Benzing called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM and welcomed all in attendance. No quorum is physically present, no votes or approval of minutes can be completed at this meeting.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Staff reported that the renovation funding for the Douglas Ave site to determine scope of work is ongoing. Renovation work includes HVAC, plumbing, building envelope. Expecting a 2–3-year project to completion using building maintenance funds.
- Pavilion work is at a standstill. More discussion about completion needs to occur.
- Sell of compactors in the 1700 sq ft. library space is ongoing.
  - First round of state surplus auction was unsuccessful. Staff is making adjustments and compactors will be going back to bid.
  - Staff plans to submit a grant application for repurposing space as “Young Explorers Center” despite recent events with congressional funding.
  - Will ask for Senate and Congressional funding
- Staff is unsatisfied with the driveway sealing and striping recently completed. Staff is seeking corrective measures from the contractor.
- Ms. Carter asked about the Continuity of Operations plan. Review needed.
- Mobile trailer is still in Waynesboro. No specific date for the contractor in Baltimore to look at the trailer for recommendations on repairs. We know many items including the slide out, lighting, hydraulics, and wrap all need to be addressed.
- A local 3-D print shop is working on the river trail interpretation signage. Work is progressing as planned.

- Staff will prepare a written update for Dominion Power regarding the status of work and use of their donated funds.

### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

- R&C scientists have evaluated current space needs. Douglas Ave. space is a valuable resource to thoughtfully consider which items can be housed at this facility. There is 35,000 sq ft. of storage space at Douglas Ave.

Dr. Benzing adjourned the meeting at 8:53 AM