

MINUTES
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14th, 2020

The meeting hosted by the museum via a *Zoom Conference* during the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trustees Present: Tom Benzing, Chairman Art Evans, Vice-Chairman
 Nathan Sanford, Secretary Barry Dorsey, Immediate Past Pres.
 Roberto Quinones

Trustees Absent: Jennifer Burnette, Treasurer

Staff Present: Joe Keiper, Director Zach Ryder (running Zoom)

Others Present: none

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by the Chairman. With no changes to be made to the June 20, 2020 Minutes, Art Evans made a motion to approve the minutes and Nathan Sanford seconded. The Minutes were approved.

Chairman's Report

Tom Benzing presented the Chairman's Report.

- Tom Benzing noted that one benefit to meeting by Zoom has been improved attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Joe Keiper presented the Treasurer's Report in Ms. Burnette's absence.

- Due to the pandemic and Emergency Declaration, VMNH lost more than a quarter of its fiscal year, but still exceeded goal in attendance revenue.
- Restricted gifts was short of goal, but that was because the VMNH-Foundation is waiting for the Department of General Services to approve the plans to move forward with construction of the Jean S. Adams Education Pavilion.
- Federal funds represent reimbursement for work on the Rock Core Collection funded by the Institute of Museum and Library services on a reimbursement basis.

Executive Director's Report

Joe Keiper presented the Executive Director's Report.

- Keiper noted staff adjustments during the pandemic.
- Staying closed to the public Monday-Thursday has had an observable reduction on our utility costs.
- Keiper reviewed numbers served at about 100 per weekend, the start date for new Asst. Curator of Archaeology Dr. Hayden Bassett as 31 August 2020, and the status of the museum's capital projects.

Executive Director Evaluation (closed session)

- The Executive Committee entered closed session, then returned to open session via a unanimous vote.
- The Committee thanked Dr. Keiper for his service, and recommended he receive his full annual bonus.

Lisa Moerner presented the Nominating Committee Report.

- The slate of officers for FY2020-21 was presented as Tom Benzing (Chair), Art Evans (Vice Chair), Jennifer Burnett (Treasurer), and Nathan Sanford (Secretary), with Barry Dorsey remaining as Immediate Past Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. As the slate was a recommendation from the Committee no motion was required. A vote by roll call to accept the slate as presented was unanimous.

Old and New Business

- It was asked how far in advance meetings were posted, and Dr. Evans noted it was at least 3 days.
- Dr. Benzing noted that committees were a great way to keep board members engaged, and will encourage all committee chairs to have their committees meet regularly. He was encouraged that Finance/Development/Marketing met and had a good discussion.
- Nathan Sanford noted that it may be beneficial for Committees to lay out in writing their goals, and discussion ensued.
- Mr. Sanford also noted that pairing new board members with experienced members may be beneficial.
- Dr. Evans noted his presentation on the history of VMNH could be used for new board members, or be given annually.
- Dr. Dorsey asked for clarification on how festivals will be handled during the pandemic, but it appears that there may be none this FY.

- Dr. Dorsey also asked about the status of the Patrick Henry Leatherwood dig site, and at this moment Sons of the American Revolution are still interested in funding but those funds have not come through yet.

Announcements

- Dr. Evans asked about the status of the appointment of a new Board member and the reappointment of eligible board members. Keiper has been in touch with the Office of Appointments, but no decisions have been made yet.

Adjournment

- Dr. Evans made a motion to adjourn at 5:05pm, and Mr. Sanford seconded. Vote to adjourn was anonymous.