

**Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Waynesboro Advocacy Committee  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 – 1:00pm**

**Meeting Attendees:** Joe Keiper, Ryan Barber, Jonathan Martin, Mary Zell Galen, Maggie Van Huss, Mark Buss, Faye Cooper, Carole Nash, and Greg Hitchin

**Absent:** Len Poulin, Tom Benzing, Gene Smith

**I. Welcome**

**II. Detailed Design Funding Updates**

Joe: As of January 4, funds have been released for detailed design, so VMNH can release the RFP for the architect soon. Full Board of Trustees, Waynesboro Advocacy Committee, and Foundation board members will be notified.

Jonathan: RFP will be released and will spend 30 days reviewing the proposal. WAC and others are advised not to release any information to prevent interruptions from the project. VMNH will be working with James Madison University as the project manager. VMNH plans to place a request for full project funding in October 2022, to then enter the capital pool in July 2023.

Questions and Answers:

- RFP must be live for 45 days, then a 10 day review period.
- Will have in-person interviews with design teams, likely three teams in Waynesboro.
- Intend to work through schematic design very quickly.
- RFP will appear on eVA (Electronic Virginia), but will strategize to select firms familiar with Virginia experience.
- State provides guidelines for reasonable prices, then the specific price negotiating process begins.

**III. Committee leadership (chair)**

Joe: Reminder to Board Members to assign a committee chair for WAC

**IV. Additional funding**

A. New donation

Joe: Long-time research associate given recent gift, and will be invited to participate in the design teams because of both his support and knowledge about Virginia geology.

B. Fundraising in the future

VMNH proposed plan: 1) Work to update major donor prospects list, 2) Work to identify major corporate opportunities

Additional plans: Hiring one staff member to support logistics, donor management, and PR/ marketing strategies in Waynesboro. Open to full/ part time, and Joe will send out the job description soon.

Joe: Will be working with key members of the team to rally the major donor base.

Greg: Requested information for naming opportunity dollar amounts.

## V. General Assembly and Board of Trustees Updates

A. Board of trustees meeting/ lobby day: Feb 15-16

Staff will format leave-behinds for each legislator. Several items to advocate for, but Waynesboro Campus will remain a priority. Other areas include support for: the Early Childhood Learning Center, HVAC updates, and the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab.

B. With Waynesboro funding progress, VMNH will work to thank Sen. Emmet Hanger and Rep. John Avoli

C. Jonanathan: Potential for redistricting in the future, see map:

[https://www.onevirginia2021foundation.org/maps?qclid=Cj0KCQiA\\_c-OBhDFARIsAIFg3ex6p92lpCXHCMUqkcadqi-UnBU09KPAAnL1xAXwK3Ea7ixCjyoswOpEaAhNEEALw\\_wcB](https://www.onevirginia2021foundation.org/maps?qclid=Cj0KCQiA_c-OBhDFARIsAIFg3ex6p92lpCXHCMUqkcadqi-UnBU09KPAAnL1xAXwK3Ea7ixCjyoswOpEaAhNEEALw_wcB)

## VI. Continued work with Design Teams

Joe: Will reinitiate teams now that we have a timeline, to provide input to the design firm.

## VII. Other Waynesboro activities

A. Lecture series

Joe will give talk on 1/11 at the Wayne Theater, two more upcoming.

B. Virtual newsletter

Strong response following the newsletter, and will change newsletter content to update about recent finance change

Contact Mary Zell if there are any issues receiving newsletter or new names to add.

C. Riverfest?

Background: Large outdoor event, where museum typically hosts larger public outreach experience.

No updates, still plan to occur in April

**IX. Open discussion/ action items**

Carole: Contacted by several local residents with substantial archaeological collections, and people have asked if this is something the museum will take. Donors have requested that they want these items to remain in the Shenandoah Valley.

Specimen donation strong donor cultivation possibility, but need to develop clear guidelines for local collection storage

Jonathan: Reminders to follow general assembly updates

Maggie: CCR board meeting 1/18

Action Items:

VMNH staff/ WAC members: Work to develop potential donor list

Greg and Faye: Brainstorm candidates for Waynesboro staff position

Joe: Share Waynesboro job description and naming opportunities information

Mary Zell: Reforward newsletter

**X. Adjourn**