

REPORT TO STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 2021

Joe B. Keiper, museum director

- I. Update on strategic plan priority areas progress during pandemic year, May 2020 – May 2021
- II. Research Centers
 - a. Collaborations identified. However, due to morphing technical expertise from retirement of Curator of Earth Sciences and hiring of a new archaeology team, flexibility is desired and more work will be done on this early in FY 2021-2022.
 - i. Curator of Mammalogy, decades on the job
 - ii. Associate Curator of Invertebrates, 7 years
 - iii. Assistant Curator of Paleontology, 2 years
 - iv. Assistant Curator of Archaeology, < 1 year
 - v. Staff Archaeologist, < 1 year
 - vi. Open search for curator scheduled for September 2021
- III. Jean S. Adams Education Pavilion
 - a. Awaiting final approval of electric install in design to meet code. Will begin work building Pavilion and replacing stairway (to meet code) shortly.
- IV. Canopy Walk to J. Frank Wilson Park
 - a. No progress to report.
 - b. Past work has mapped trees, identified collaborations with City, YMCA, public schools.
- V. Rehab of Douglas Avenue
 - a. Work on roof has begun
 - b. Next steps will be upgrades of electrical infrastructure
- VI. Early Childhood Learning Area
 - a. Process of removing and selling compactor shelves in Library has been identified.
 - b. Awaiting further work on Douglas Avenue building before determining long-term look at collections storage there.
- VII. VMNH-Waynesboro Campus
 - a. VMNH is currently in the budget to be reviewed and signed by Governor Northam, 7 April 2021
 - b. RFQ for architects for Detailed Planning prepared

- c. Anticipating the start of Detailed Planning work 1 July 2021
- d. VMNH has kept strong ties with Waynesboro, particularly with a drive through Dinosaur Show, a planned drive through show on 1 May 2021, a conversation with educators about the early childhood experience at VMNH-W, and a proposed meeting to discuss content of geological and hydrological exhibit themes.

VIII. Reaccreditation through the American Alliance of Museums

- a. Board of Trustees informed of need for an *ad hoc* committee specific to reaccreditation beginning January 2023.
- b. Keiper has regularly conducted site reviews of museums across the country (Witte Museum, Cable Natural History Museum, Sam Noble Museum of Oklahoma, Shiele Museum, Columbia Gorge Museum) which will lend insight into reaccreditation package preparation.

IX. Other

- a. PANDEMIC RESPONSE
 - i. Online resources
 - ii. Online Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy
 - iii. Boxley Grant
 - iv. Modified public hours
 - v. Modified staff schedule
 - vi. Focus on shoring up R&C facilities
 - 1. Molecular Lab
 - 2. STEM Lab
 - 3. Cultural Heritage Database (with US DoD)
- b. ESCO project 2021

X. Diversity and inclusion at VMNH

- a. Staff & Board
- b. Public
- c. Outreach (e.g., VMNH-W project)