

WAYNESBORO ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

13 February 2021

Faye Cooper (chair), Tom Benzing, Carole Nash, Siri Russell, Len Poulin (VMNH-F), Gene Smith (VMNH-F), Greg Hitchin (City of Waynesboro), Maggie Von Huss (Waynesboro educator); *ex officio* – Joe Keiper, Jonathan Martin, Ryan Barber

The Waynesboro Advocacy Committee has worked to promote a broader understanding of the goals of VMNH in establishing its branch campus in Constitution Park, in collaboration with the City of Waynesboro, the Center for Coldwaters Restoration, and other partners.

I. Focus groups for VMNH-W Early childhood learning experience & Geology exhibits

- 15 participated in a discussion of the experiences and opportunities for children in the early childhood gallery.
- Another focus group is being scheduled specific to the exhibits covering the geology of the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge of Virginia.

II. VMNH-promotional videos

- A number of VMNH-W promotional videos have been created and distributed electronically

III. Waynesboro Dinosaur Drive-through Show

- On 10 October 2020, participants will receive a VMNH-W trifold, and images of the building will be on display.
- Program sold out, with another experience being planned for spring 2021.

IV. VMNH and Waynesboro Public Library

- Keiper met with Kevin Osbourne of the Waynesboro Public Library. As plans to reopen become evident, a VMNH team will move the Triceratops and interpretive material to the library. This is on hold until the Library schedule is determined.

V. Wayne Theatre Lecture Series

- The lecture series continues, with this year's theme centered on the flow of exhibit topics in the proposed galleries covered in the Preplanning documents.

VI. Legislative

- The committee has communicated with policy makers, and the language to fund VMNH-W remains in the budget.

- A January 2021 presentation by Tony Maggio of Department of Planning and Budget to the House Appropriations Committee showed that VMNH-W is “in the pipeline” and has been approved for detailed planning.

Slides 18-21 are pertinent to VMNH:

http://hac.virginia.gov/subcommittee/2021_capital_outlay/1-18-21/Capital%20Outlay%20Subcommittee%20Jan%2018,%202021%20Final.pdf