

MINUTES
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Saturday, August 10th, 2024
Danville Science Center

The one-hundred-forty-sixth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Natural History was held at the Danville Science Center at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 10, 2024.

Trustees Present:	Mr. Mark Buss, Chair Mr. Cord Cothren, Treasurer Dr. Melany Reeves Clark, VC Ms. Lauren Woodson, Secretary Ms. Lisa Carter, Past Chair Ms. Jennifer Burnett	Dr. Carole Nash Dr. Tom Benzing Mr. Nathan Sanford Ms. Sherri Jordan Dr. Art Evans Ms. Anne Burnett
Trustees Absent:	Ms. Emma Ito Dr. Makunda Abdul-Mbacke	Mr. Roberto Quinones
Staff Present:	Dr. Joe Keiper Mr. Jonathan Martin Mr. Ben Williams	Mr. Ryan Barber Mr. Marcus James Mr. Marshall Boyd
Others Present	Mr. Tyler Carter, VMNH-F	Ms. Abby Gump, AG

Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Mark Buss, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM, and it was determined that there were 12 members present, and 3 absent, which established a quorum.

Minutes

Mark noted that minutes were distributed to the Board late due to an oversight, and that the May Board Meeting notes will be tabled and voted on during the November meeting.

Chair's Report

Mr. Buss introduced Latala Hodges, who would act as facilitator for today's strategic visioning session. He then asked Joe Keiper to introduce other guests, and he introduced Ms. Abby Gump, Assistant Attorney General, and Mr. Tyler Carter, President of the VMNH-Foundation Board of Directors.

Mark thanked the new officers, including Melany Clark as Vice Chair, Cord Cothren continuing as Treasurer, and Lauren Woodson as Secretary. He thanked Lisa Carter, immediate past Chair, for her leadership.

Regarding the end of last fiscal year, Mr. Buss noted the finances finished out well and asked all trustees to review the numbers carefully.

Mark noted Ms. Abby Gump recommended the board update its electronic meeting policy. The policy was amended to incorporate 2024 updates by the General Assembly, such as up to two meetings per year could be virtual, and that an individual could attend virtually and count towards a quorum if the member was tending to a medical condition. Mark introduced the motion to accept and Jennifer Burnett seconded. The vote to accept the updates was unanimous.

Mr. Buss noted an updated version of the museum's Code of Ethics was circulated. Dr. Evans noted had a few minor typographical edits. Mr. Buss asked for a motion to accept the Code of Ethics with Dr. Evans' edits. Dr. Evans made the motion to accept, Jennifer Burnett seconded, and the ensuing vote was unanimous.

Mark noted that a Consent Agenda would be used so maximum time can be committed to the strategic visioning process.

Consent Agenda

Mark briefly reviewed the contents of the Consent Agenda and asked for a motion to accept. Cord Cothren motioned to accept, Jennifer Burnett seconded, and the vote to accept was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA CONTENTS (all pertain to final quarter of FY 2023-2024):

- [Director's Report](#)
- [Advancement Report](#)
- [Financial Report & Finance Committee Minutes](#)
- [Education Board Report](#)
- [Education Committee Minutes](#)
- [Research & Collections Report & R&C Committee Minutes](#)
- [Waynesboro Advocacy Committee Report and WAC Minutes](#)

Strategic Planning

Mr. Buss ceded the floor to Ms. Hodges, who gave an outline of activities for the morning and afternoon. After discussion, board members were divided into 4 teams and rotated through stations with questions about the museum's future. The board reconvened and held a joint discussion on outcomes. Latala indicated a full report on the discussions would be distributed in September.

Announcements and Open Discussion

- Mark reminded the Board that the next meeting is at VMNH.
 - November 16th, 2024, 10:00AM

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Mr. Mark Buss asked for a motion to adjourn, Cord Cothren motioned and Anne Burnett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Woodson
Secretary

Mark Buss
Chair