

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting  
Founder's Conference Room and 1800 Atlantic Avenue, 300A Key West, Florida  
Thursday, 20 March 2014, 8:30 am

There were present:

Thomas F. Farrell II, Co-Chair  
John H. Hager, Co-Chair  
James C. Cherry  
Michael M. Connors (conference)  
Susan S. Goode  
Charles Levine  
Dr. Paul S. Monroe  
Satya Rangarajan  
Michael J. Schewel  
William A. Royall, Jr., Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director  
Steven Blashfield  
Stephen D. Bonadies  
Laura Keller  
Cameron O'Brion  
Glenn Suttentfield

Absent:

Richard B. Gilliam  
Jil Womack Harris  
Marlene A. Malek  
Steven A. Markel  
Stanley J. Olander  
William D. Sessoms

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Chair John Hager welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. He described the new committee structure and its correlation to the museum's divisions.

**II. Committee Charge and Areas of Responsibility**

Mr. Hager related that the new Operations Committee will oversee Buildings & Grounds, Technology, Risk Management, and Collections Management. He reviewed the rotation of topics for the quarterly meetings, an initiative to ensure all areas of responsibility are addressed.

**III. Robinson House Schematics**

Mr. Bonadies explained that the Robinson House currently lays fallow because of building issues but will soon become a useful part of the museum campus. He introduced Glenn Suttentfield and Steven Blashfield of Glave & Holmes Architecture. Mr. Suttentfield expressed that the design is intended to preserve the house's iconic image but reconcile it with its contemporary context. After questions were answered, the following motion was proposed:

**Motion:** from Mr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Goode, to approve the design if the project is within the original budget or additional funds are acquired from the state, provided that the parking spaces are retained and the space allocations for the visitor center, gallery and office space are revisited.

#### IV. **Capital Projects – Stephen Bonadies**

Mr. Bonadies reviewed several capital projects including the 1985 Wing roof replacement, the renovation of the Fabergé galleries, and the Carpentry Shop relocation. After Mr. Bonadies answered all questions, the committee approved all projects.

#### V. **Maintenance Reserve Priorities**

Mr. Bonadies reviewed projects qualifying for maintenance reserve funding in order of importance. This fund is intended for systems and equipment replacement projects with budgets under \$1 million. Completed or current projects include the roof of the 201 N. Boulevard building, air handling system, sewage pumps in the 1954 and 1970 wings, the elevators and theater lifts in the 1985 wing. Additionally, the museum needs to improve the sprinkler system with a nitrogen generator to prevent corrosion in the pipes. Mr. Bonadies responded to questions about the source of these funds and the process for determining their application.

#### VI. **Sculpture Garden Improvements**

Mr. Bonadies continued by updating the committee on improvements to outdoor spaces. The museum plans to add outdoor seating and planters to create a gathering space outdoors. The Pauley Center patio, in particular, is currently unused and could be transformed into a picnic area for staff and visitors. Although the museum would also like to improve the appearance of the 1936 entrance, the new wing created a new main entrance and the original one is rarely used. There is a minimum amount of staff there. The committee agreed that the new entrance and Pauley Center patio should be priorities over the doors facing Boulevard.

#### VII. **Expansion Project Close-out**

Mr. Bonadies reviewed the errors and omissions claim filed against SMBW Architects. VMFA identified \$8 million in costs incurred by the late delivery of drawings or by drawing inaccuracies. Although the studio no longer exists, the museum can file a claim with the architect's insurance and could recover \$3 million. Mr. Nyerges predicted that the amount of evidence would persuade the insurance company to settle. Mr. Farrell asked what would happen if any money was recovered, and Mr. Nyerges indicated that the Board of Trustees would decide based on options from the Department of General Services.

#### VIII. **Other Business/Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am by Chair Thomas Farrell.

Recorded by: Laura Keller  
Assistant to the Secretary of the Foundation