

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting
19 March 2015, 8:30am
Founder's Conference Room

There were present:

John H. Hager, Co-Chair
Jil Womack Harris
Steven A. Markel
Dr. Paul Monroe
Stanley J. Olander, Jr.
Michael J. Schewel

By invitation:

Stephen Bonadies
Laura Keller
Hossein Sadid

Absent:

Thomas F. Farrell II, Co-Chair
Michael M. Connors
Richard B. Gilliam
Susan S. Goode
Marlene A. Malek
Satya Rangarajan

I. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair John Hager called the meeting to order at 8:34am and thanked trustees for attending.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: proposed by Mr. Schewel and seconded by Dr. Monroe to approve the minutes of the Dec. 3, 2015 meeting as distributed. Motion passed.

III. CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Hager reported that the Grove Avenue exit stairway was completed under its \$686,275 budget at \$625,000. This will support a new staff entrance. The committee discussed parking logistics surrounding this project.

The roof replacement project in the 1985 wing received low bids compared to original estimates. VMFA chose to add a skylight replacement project using the funds for the Lewis gallery skylights so that unfiltered light will not damage the artwork on display.

Mr. Bonadies stated that VMFA has prequalified the contractors for the Robinson House project, though the bid documents were withdrawn as the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management (BCOM) will not allow a seven-month construction schedule. Mr. Hager added that VMFA plans to negotiate with the lowest bidder and appeal to BCOM. The accelerated schedule would most likely have increased overall costs, while lengthening the project to a more reasonable schedule should lower construction costs.

Private funds and a capital appropriation are being used to renovate the Faberge galleries. Construction will begin in Jan. 2016 after the bidding process ends, with a target completion date of Aug. 2016. Dr. Harris suggested displaying the Schlumberger pieces in the Faberge gallery due to aesthetic similarities of the objects. Mr. Bonadies commented that VMFA is considering using the Evans Court Gallery to display these new pieces though will look at dedicating a space near the Mellon galleries to this collection.

Upcoming capital projects will include installing new fire resistant plywood in the Mellon galleries.

IV. MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Mr. Bonadies explained that VMFA must install a nitrogen generator in the dry-pipe fire suppression system to avoid internal pipe corrosion. He also informed the committee that VMFA is repairing the main entrance vestibule ceiling when its fire suppression system froze and burst last year. Mr. Bonadies expects completion by early May.

Current maintenance reserve priorities include repairing active roof leaks both in the Pauley Center; water leaks into the building adjacent to the emergency egress steps on Grove Avenue; and replacing the air handling unit in the 1970 wing.

Mr. Royall asked whether the Pauley Center is equipped with wireless internet, and Mr. Bonadies responded that this forthcoming project has been submitted in the operating budget. Due to lack of quorum, the committee did not vote on the maintenance reserve priorities, but it should be noted that those present were wholly amenable to the proposed plan.

V. PUBLIC SPACES

Mr. Bonadies stated that current needs for VMFA public spaces include improved seating on the grounds and within the galleries, changing stations in all restrooms, and improved way-finding. He also expressed the need for a space audit of all VMFA buildings to identify areas that may be underutilized for staff and back-of-house needs. VMFA has budgeted \$80k for the audit, outlined in the 2020 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Royall expressed that VMFA's parking garage should be renovated for better wheelchair accessibility, citing the width of passageways.

Dr. Harris inquired as to the status of VMFA's long-term plans for improving its outdoor spaces. Mr. Bonadies clarified that projects for an artist-designed playground and seating for outdoors programs are being considered.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Recorded by Rebecca L. Morrison
Assistant for Trustee Board Relations and Museum Planning