

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 16 September 2015, 8:30am
Founder's Conference Room

There were present:

Thomas F. Farrell II, Co-Chair
John H. Hager, Co-Chair
Susan S. Goode
Jil Womack Harris
Satya Rangarajan

By invitation:

Stephen D. Bonadies
Laura Keller
A. Cameron O'Brion
Mike Slatner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Tom Farrell called the meeting to order at 8:30 and welcomed the committee members.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS

Deputy Director for Collections and Facilities Management Stephen Bonadies updated the committee on the Robinson House project. The museum plans to renovate the building, using the first floor for a Richmond Regional Tourism location and for a gallery interpreting the history of the museum grounds. He explained that the recently received bids were significantly higher than estimates, so he and his staff had a consultant examine the plans for potential cost savings. Mr. Bonadies feels confident that a request to the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management could result in additional funding. He hopes to have contractors bid again in October. One potential cost savings would be to change the length of the project from 9 months to one year.

The plans for the Fabergé Gallery have been submitted to the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management, and construction will begin in January 2016. The collection will return in August 2016 and be reinstalled for the grand reopening in October 2016.

Mr. Bonadies also announced that the 1985 wing roof replacement project was completed for \$1.4 million against a budget of \$1.8 million. The new skylights provide improved, filtered light in the Marble Hall.

III. MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Next, the deputy director reviewed the maintenance reserve project to install a nitrogen generator as part of the dry-pipe fire suppression system. The generator replaces oxygen in the pipes to prevent corrosion and is the first of its kind installed in a State building in Virginia. Two other maintenance reserve projects came in under budget, the repair of the vestibule ceiling at the main entrance and

the refinished floors in the lower level gallery. Upcoming projects include replacing the Pauley Center roof and replacing the windows at the 1936 entrance.

IV. PUBLIC SPACES

Mr. Bonadies noted that the turf in the sculpture garden and the garden on the Belvedere have been significantly improved. He recognized Patti St. Clair for her extraordinary generosity toward improving the museum grounds. The museum has added seating, planters, and umbrellas to the sculpture garden and is working to repair stones around the edge of the belvedere.

V. CONSERVATION AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

Lastly, Mr. Bonadies announced that Sheila Payaqui was promoted to Sculpture & Decorative Arts Conservator after an extremely competitive search. The museum has also hired its first paper conservator, Samantha Sheesley.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

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