

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Transcription of the Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 10:30am
Video Conference

Meeting called to order at 10:38am.

Full attendance listed in the meeting minutes.

Tom Papa: So, I'd like to call to order this meeting with the Building Committee for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Any members of the public? Welcome, we're glad you're with us. In accordance with the requirements the meetings that are the Freedom of Information Act, the minutes and transcripts of this meetings will be posted. In accordance with the requirements for virtual meetings we offered a public comment period. As there were no requests for public comment, we're going to proceed with the approval of the minutes. I'm going to make a motion to approve the minutes for Wednesday, February 5, 2020 Building Committee as distributed previously. Do I have a motion to approve those minutes?

Unidentified: I move it for a second.

Tom Papa: Okay. And could you identify yourself. Charlie? I wasn't sure if you're moving it and I'm checking it or I'm moving it then.

Charles Whitaker: I'll do either.

Tom Papa: Okay, well, I'll move and I'll accept your second. All in favor, please say aye. If anyone opposes, please say nay. Thanks. I hear no nays. No nays and only ayes. I'm going to ask you resolution so the minutes have been approved for the February 2020 meeting. Alex, are you on the line?

Alex Nyerges: I am, Tom. I was muted for a moment.

Tom Papa: Okay, good morning. Alex. I have on our agenda that you are going to update the board at this point on where we are on this timeline.

Alex Nyerges: Yep, sorry. Be glad to and it's all good news. The Commonwealth, if everybody would remember, approved our building project back in the beginning of 2019. We had a match that we had to reach in that fiscal year, which we did and then we were authorized to proceed. So, obviously, this committee was formed has been prepared. Then maybe the most important piece of this obviously is about money and because we were an approved project our project is moving forward. It's an approved project from 2019 and the General Assembly is still deciding what might, or might not happen, for projects that are in the queue currently but have not been approved. So we have word that we can proceed, which is why we've scheduled this meeting and have the RFP on the schedule. So, and just to remind everybody of what's been approved, our request for as well \$125 million. That is based on a two-to-one match of two public dollars to one private dollar that we raise. Then that \$125 million is actually broken into two parts.

This is the way they always do it and did it. The last time, we had the expansion in 2006 to 2010 that is divided into the first amount, which is actually the hard and soft cost of, of getting the building designed and built. That's a \$112 million, so that's what we're able to proceed with because the final segment which will not come for another two years. The next biennium down the road, which is the \$13 million for fixtures equipment and furniture. That is how all the projects through the capital expansion projects occur. So we are on track, we're able to move ahead. The other piece that I'll add is that Hossein (Sadid) sits on the Bond Committee for the Governor. That was one of the other hurdles we were concerned about initially, was whether or not the state was going to have the bond capacity to move forward with even approved projects but that apparently is not an obstacle. So things are proceeding at a pace. So we're in great shape. So this committee can do its job.

Tom Papa: That's great news. Is there anything else that we will need to wait for?

Alex Nyerges: Yep.

Tom Papa: Is there anything else that we will need to wait for from the legislature when they meet again in January, February?

Alex Nyerges: No, actually, we're primarily wanting to have this meeting move ahead with the RFP. We would like the General Assembly to close down its session because quite frankly we want to not be particularly high profile. There were a couple of state institutions Radford was one of them and maybe Caprice (Bragg) or Hossein (Sadid) can remind me if there were others. There were a couple of institutions as I mentioned, Radford, that were vying to move ahead in the queue. I think it Radford was another, another building. But one of the things I'll say with great confidence is that the last time we were appropriated a large capital appropriation, and I'm talking about for a building was back in 2005, so it's already been 15 years. I can tell you that the others who tried to get in the queue have had multiple building projects funded in the last 15 years. So there's always a sentiment that you know in terms of fairness, if anything, the Commonwealth is extremely fair and equitable about how they do what they do, you know obviously, based on the quality and the scope of what is being done but we're in good shape. But there will be nothing else to do in January.

Tom Papa: Thank you. Thank you, Alex. So, are there any other board members that have any questions or comments with regards to what Alex just addressed hearing? None? I will say, thank you, Alex. Appreciate it and I think at this point, Caprice, would you mind updating us on what Cindy Norwood told you?

Caprice Bragg: Good morning again, everyone. Cindy couldn't join us to participate in this meeting. She wanted to just offer a few helpful reminders, so I'll share them, you've heard these before, but I'll share them with everyone. She mentioned that it is absolutely critical that anything that is discussed in closed session or handled in closed session, be treated with the confidentiality that is required. Any materials that are distributed should not be distributed outside of the closed session and matters discussed in the closed session should not be discussed outside of the session. Also as a reminder for our Trustees, more than two of you will constitute a public meeting subject to all of the public meeting requirements. Those are her recommendations and reminders.

Tom Papa: Thank you very good. I, I finally got on so I, I apologize for the technical issues on my end. I am going to propose that the Building Committee go into closed session to discuss the RFP.

The relevant exemption is Section 2.2-3711 (A) (29) of the Code of Virginia. I'd asked for somebody to second motion.

Marland Buckner: Second.

Tom Papa: Okay.

Kay Baker: This is Kay. I'm going to make sure we go into closed session, just one moment please.

Tom Papa: Alright, thank you.

Kay Baker: Okay, we had one public guest join us and that person in the lobby. If there are no other public people on the meeting line, and I don't think there is, it doesn't look like there's on my end, you should be good to go.

Tom Papa: Great, thank you.

At 10:45am the meeting went into closed session.

At 11:55am the meeting resumed in open session.

Tom Papa: Yes, we are now back in open session and everyone is back in the meeting. Right. Michael, would you mind taking us through next steps?

Michael Taylor: Yes, absolutely. Well, I say, I think we've gone over now I'm going get in touch with Cindy about section six of the RFP, and confirm that language. I'll also talk with Alex about phase kind of process on determining the numbers, but apart from that, I think we're in great shape. This was such an important meeting. We will also review the timeline with Steve and Jim as we discussed. But I, I think really, we've made some progress today.

Tom Papa: This has been really an excellent discussion. We have talked about making some tightening up of the language, but I think in general terms, I think that if anybody has any issues with the release, it would be a good to hear it now. But, absent that, what I'm going to do, at this point is, I'm going to ask that we approve the release of the, with the small modifications that we discussed in closed session. Does anybody wish to second motion second? Okay. I, I didn't hear somebody second. Is Monroe?

Monroe Harris: Second.

Tom Papa: Monroe did. Okay everybody who's in favor please say aye.

Members: Aye.

Tom Papa: Anybody opposed say, "nay". Hearing no nays, I will say that the motion has carried and passed. Is there any other business that we should discuss at this time?

Alex Nyerges: Tom, I'm just going make one other comment going back to the timeframe part of the discussion and that is everybody should recognize that these are guidelines and that we're not

going sacrifice quality or the proper decision making process for speed. As Tom, you know, and many of you on this call know very well building projects have timelines. Although I'm going to step out on a limb that Michael and I are going deliver a project that's on time and on budget. What we're going do is modified so that we know at least at the start here we're going keep onto that mantra well and I have every confidence, you know, we have a really good group.

Tom Papa: I just want to go on record and apologize for the terrible technology problems I'm having on my end. I will try to figure out what has caused this but back to what you're saying I know we will do a great job we will do a fair and competent job on selecting the architect and we will have a wonderful building at the end of the day. I really think that this is a great Building Committee group. The comments and the insights and it's really been very helpful and I think that we will have a very good process. So, if there is anything further to say, please any other additional business, please feel free to talk about it now. If not, I will move to adjourn this meeting. Anybody have anything else they want to add? Okay, hearing nothing, I declare this meeting that adjourned. Thank you all very much.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

Transcribed by: Kay Baker
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