

Date: _____ Approved: _____

THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
Government Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Held, pursuant to due notice, in the Claiborne Robertson Room
Wednesday, 26 May 2010, 3:00 pm

Presiding: Susan S. Goode, Chair
Secretary: Ms. Suzanne Broyles

There were present:
Susan S. Goode, Chair
Michael J. Schewel, Vice-Chair
James C. Cherry
Mrs. Whitt W. Clement
Mrs. Barbara-lyn B. Morris
Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider
Jane Bassett Spilman
John R. Staelin
Pamela Reynolds, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:
Alex Nyerges, Director
Ms. Carol Amato
David B. Bradley
Ms. Suzanne Broyles
Ms. Suzanne Hall
Ms. Joan W. Murphy
Robin Nicholson
Ms. Alexis Vaughn

Absent:
Karen C. Abramson
Martin J. Barrington
Robert L. Burrus, Jr.
Mrs. Beverly H. Diamonstein
Ms. Eva Teig Hardy
Kenneth S. Johnson, Sr.
Dr. Benjamin J. Lambert III
Mrs. Stanley F. Pauley
Mrs. Gordon F Rainey, Jr.
Richard T. Riley
Ranjit K. Sen
Dr. Joseph R. Vilseck, Jr.
Gregory H. Wingfield
Thurston R. Moore, Ex-Officio
Mrs. Suzanne T. Mastracco, Ex-Officio
Richard G. Tilghman, Ex-Officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Susan Goode, at 3:00 pm.

II. MINUTES

Motion: proposed by Mrs. Goode, seconded by Mr. Staelin that the Minutes of the last meeting of the Government Affairs Committee held on the 17th of February 2010 be approved as distributed on the 17th of March 2010.
Motion carried.

III. Comments by Alex Nyerges, Director

Alex Nyerges commented that if not for the February 1 Legislative event, we would not have been able to open the new wing on May 1 as that event made everyone believe we could do it, particularly Governor McDonnell. The Governor presided over the dinner and five former Governors attended which, Mr. Nyerges said, was beyond imagination. David Bradley noted that a terrific photo of the current Governor with all the former Governors was taken. He said that many of the state legislators attended the black tie event also. The ribbon cutting on May 1st was also well attended and included the State Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson who then spent an hour going through the galleries.

IV. Recap of the Fiscal Year

David Bradley remarked that the opening of the McGlothlin Wing presented a great opportunity for us to show what we can do. He thanked the City of Richmond and the County of Hanover for their prompt actions to complete improvements being made along the Boulevard. Hanover County installed a new water line under the Boulevard and completed the work just one week before the opening. Thanks to the administrative skills of Suzette Denslow, Chief of Staff to Mayor Jones, both localities took responsibility to repave the Boulevard in front of the Museum. She also arranged with the City's Chief Administrative Officer to meet with Mr. Bradley to view Boulevard and arranged to remove dead vegetation and construction debris, prune trees, improve signage, and clean the streets before the opening events. Mr. Bradley asked committee members to thank Mayor Dwight Jones for this help. Mayor Jones attended the April 23rd premier opening event and Ms. Denslow attended the April 25th opening event.

David Bradley announced that the newly appointed Deputy Secretary of Education Laura Fornash, the Speaker of the House, and Michael Hardy of the Lieutenant Governor's Office have responded that they will attend tomorrow's Annual Full Board meeting. Mr. Bradley informed the group that legislation in the 2010 session deleted the Lieutenant Governor as an ex-officio member of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Board of Trustees. The position was removed from other state boards in order to focus attention on economic issues such as jobs creation.

V. Government Reform and Restructuring Process

Carol Amato said that Governor McDonnell has appointed a Government Reform and Restructuring Commission which has been charged to identify efficiencies or innovative ways to deliver state services. The Commission is to deliver their initial findings by July 16, 2010 and their report is due December 1, 2010. The Commission will meet with agency personnel and ask for information. The Chair of the Commission is Fred Malek, Founder and Chairman, Thayer Capital Partners. Serving on the Commission are Delegate Bob Brink, Arlington; Speaker Howell; Former Senator Benjamin Lambert; Scott Pattison, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers, Midlothian; Delegate Lee Ware, Powhatan; Ric Brown, Secretary of Finance; and Lisa Hicks-Thomas, Secretary of Administration.

Ms. Amato reminded the group that there has been talk in the administration of combining state cultural institutions to save money. VMFA feels there would be no savings in this and it could in fact increase costs. The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has also been interested in the possibility of adding the revenue from our enterprise operations to the state budget. Ms. Amato thinks that because we are an institution of higher learning DPB is leaning toward treating us the same way it treats state universities where enterprises are included in the State budget as special dedicated revenue.

VI. Adjournment

David Bradley and Alex Nyerges indicated that they would keep the Committee updated. There being no further business, Chairman Goode adjourned the meeting at 3:47 pm.

Suzanne Broyles
Secretary of the Museum