**Waynesboro Advocacy Committee**

**Virginia Museum of Natural History**

7 May 2024, 1:00 PM by Zoom

**AGENDA & MINUTES**

1. Welcome, approve minutes from April 2024
2. Update on activities.
   1. Detailed Design update on funding and continuation
3. Community
4. Community interactions

• Farmers’ Market V. Planning

1. Planning

* Report from McGuire Woods to City of Waynesboro

• Discussion of WAC goals for FY 2024-2025

1. Open discussion

VII. Next meeting, 4 June 2024

VIII. Adjourn.

**MINUTES Waynesboro Advocacy Committee 6 May 2024**

Attending: LeAnn Binger, Tom Benzing, Faye Cooper, Maggie VanHuss, Carole Nash, Greg Hitchin, Joe Keiper (staff), Marcus James (staff), Ryan Barber (staff), Jonathan Martin (staff).

 I. Welcome, approve minutes from April 2024

Joe began the meeting at 1:05 pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7 meeting. Greg made the motion to approve, and Maggie seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Rick Miller retired, and Scott Wachter has taken over his position.

Introductions from everyone.

II. Update on activities

1. Detailed Design update on funding and contribution

Schematics have been approved.

6-9 months for the funds to be transferred over.

Refining the overall design based on cost and materials that fit state standards.

III. Community

c. Community interactions

An estimated 500 people visited the VMNH Outreach trailer at Riverfest.

Jefferson Award presented to Coldwater Restoration and Senator Hanger

We are continuously staying engaged on event opportunities.

Fall Foliage Festival in October.

Seeking help in terms of identifying speakers for the Wayne Science Talk series

• Farmers’ Market

Volunteers set to open VMNH trailer during Farmer Market hours on Saturdays.

7 or 8 volunteers are willing to work at the mobile outreach trailer with crib notes.

IV. Planning

* Report from McGuire Woods to the City of Waynesboro

Having a checklist of tangible topics.

McGuire Woods have helped us in Richmond.

Direct connections with delegates continue to play a huge part in the VMNH-W.

Open discussion of the McGuire Report for WAC goals for the next fiscal year.

Tangible steps and the importance of maintaining contact with legislative sessions.

* Discussion of WAC goals for FY 2024-2025

Marcus and Joe presented WAC's next year's goals presentation.

1. Detail Design

As previously discussed earlier in the meeting

1. Volunteer and Trailer

Volunteers discussed earlier in the meeting.

Set up the generator only when we have large events.

Tweaks with the exhibits and crib sheet from time to time

keep a sign-up sheet available for future volunteers.

1. Community Connection

CCR to help with the lecture series.

Active scholarships for education programs

Pilot Student mentorship program

Christy's pending outreach to schools, depending on funds and grants.

1. Advocacy

Keeping up with grants, corporate partnerships, and VMNH-W email list.

1. Building Further Support

Concepts of the General Assembly advocacy the lobbyist. Submit formal requests and understand different forms.

This summer we engage Delegate Campbell and Senator Head.

Engaging outside of the General Assembly session

Letter of Support to entities, generating a list of supporters

* List:

Rotary Club

Daughters of the American Revolution

Kiwanis Club

Chamber of Commerce

Schools and Superintendents

South River Watershed coalition

Senator Kane

Senator Warner

Delegate Lawford

Delegate Coulson

V. Open Discussion

 Strategically planning a way to engage delegates in a one-on-one meeting or inviting to site visitations and community events.

Museums for All program that Ryan has been growing, where we're getting people into our museum otherwise normally can't afford it.

Trustees to continue to talk with their elected officials outside of the General Assembly session. Specifically, bring up the funding request.

Approving the April and May minutes in June’s meeting.

VI. The Next Waynesboro Advocacy Committee Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024, in Waynesboro.

VII. Adjourn.

Tom asked for a motion to adjourn, Tom and Greg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM.