

DRAFT Minutes
Art and Architectural Review Board
March 6, 2026, at 10:00 am
Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room
1111 E Broad St, Richmond VA 23219

1.0 ADMINISTRATION

1.1 CALL TO ORDER – 10:00am

Members Present: Anca Lipan (Vice Chair), Adrienne Birge-Wilson (DHR), Jill Nolt, Gaby Rengifo

Absent: Lynden Garland (Chair), Megan Melinat, Stanley Rayfield, Anne Smith

Department of General Services Staff Present: E.Y. Boggs, Sarah Burns

**A quorum was established.*

1.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

1.4 OTHER BUSINESS

1.4.1 April meeting date change

Motion to Move Next Meeting from April 3 to April 10: Jill Nolt

Second: Adrienne Birge-Wilson

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

**2.1 Virginia Community College System (VCCS) / New River Community College
Update Wayfinding Signage**

(Final Approval)

Replacement of exterior ground mounted signage for buildings, pedestrians, parking and wayfinding.

Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments:

1. When comparing slides 23 and 24 of the presentation, it appears that the new sign comes to a point in the center whereas the current sign is rounded. If that is the case, consider aligning the top of the stone wall to match its precedent.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval with Board Comments: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.2 Virginia Community College System (VCCS) / Laurel Ridge Community College Renovate Healthcare Simulation Lab

(Final Approval)

This project is a single story, level 2 renovation of the west wing of Smith Hall on Laurel Ridge Community College's campus in Middletown VA. This renovation will include the demolition of an existing Theater space and adjacent support spaces, as well as existing simulation lab spaces to create a new nursing simulation lab, debrief rooms, surgical tech rooms, and support spaces. In terms of exterior elements, the existing flat roof will be receiving a new RTU (roof-top unit) and two new exterior doors will be added.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.3 George Mason University (GMU) / Carow Hall Exterior Renovation

(Final Approval)

George Mason University is proposing to replace the existing exterior windows and the built-up roof system at Carow Hall. The existing windows will be replaced with new aluminum-framed units to improve durability, energy performance, and long-term maintenance. The existing ballasted built-up roof system will be removed and replaced with a new single-ply roofing system. The eight existing narrow, floor-to-ceiling cathedral-style windows will remain and are not included in the scope of replacement.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.4 George Mason University (GMU) / Robert House & Garage Exterior Repairs
(Final Approval)

George Mason University is proposing renovations to exterior components of the Roberts House and two associated outbuildings, including a garage and a barn. The scope of work includes removal and replacement of existing wood-framed exterior windows and vinyl shutters, removal and replacement of the current three-tab shingle roofing system, repainting of the existing fiber cement siding, and brick repointing at the chimneys. The new windows will be aluminum-clad units, the shutters will be replaced with new wood hinged shutters, and the roofing systems will be upgraded to a standing seam metal roof system.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and will need to review this. The ca. 1925 Roberts House (DHR ID #029-0195-0004; President's House; Buchanan House), the Garage (DHR ID #029-0195-0005) and the Stable (DHR ID # 029-0195-0006) were last surveyed in 1988 and are currently unevaluated for listing eligibility for the Virginia Landmark Register (VLR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.5 Virginia Tech (VT) / Main Eggleston Restroom Louvers
(Final Approval)

The project proposes upgrades to the student restroom and shower facilities in Main Eggleston Hall, a legacy collegiate gothic residence hall on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. To support improved mechanical ventilation requirements, new exterior louvers will be installed within two existing quad-facing dormers.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.6 Virginia Tech (VT) / Working Pens at Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center

(Final Approval)

The project proposes the construction of a new open-air working pen shed at the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) to support livestock research and management operations. The scope includes installation of a wood-framed pole shed with metal roofing and siding, a livestock chute system, and a supporting concrete slab. The proposed structure measures approximately 12 feet by 16 feet with a height of 13 feet. The shed will replace a previously collapsed structure and is designed to match existing working pen sheds on site in scale, materials, and configuration.

DHR Comments: As of this meeting, DHR has received this and is in the process of reviewing. The work will take place within the boundaries of the Cyrus McCormick Farm (DHR ID #081-0073) which is listed in the VLR/NRHP, as well as being a National Historic Landmark, the highest honor the National Service can bestow upon a property. In accordance with the Appropriations Act (Biennial Budget Bill), DHR review is required as the property is listed in the VLR.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.7 Virginia State University / Demolish Jackson Place Cottage #2

(Final Approval)

This project consists of the complete demolition of the Virginia State University 3007 Jackson Place Cottage #2 building located in the southeast area of campus. The area will be fine graded and seeded. Originally constructed around 1910 at Jackson Place, this is a two-story wood frame with brick veneer structure of approximately 2,954 SF. The building is unoccupied. The University requests authority to demolish the building to eliminate associated liability and security risk and to facilitate a higher use of the land.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this yet. Per Section V.2 of Division of Engineering and Buildings Directive #1, Revised 1984 (§ 2.2-2402 Code of Virginia), DHR review is required for all demolitions. 2 Jackson Place (DHR ID # 020-5245-0023) is contributing to the eligible Virginia State University Historic District.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.8 Virginia State University (VSU) / Demolish Jackson Place Cottage #3 & #4

(Final Approval)

This project consists of the complete demolition of the Virginia State University 3031 Jackson Place Cottage #3 & #4 building located in the southeast area of campus. The area will be fine graded and seeded. Originally constructed around 1925 at Jackson Place, this is a two-story wood frame with brick veneer structure of approximately 5,566 SF. The building is unoccupied. The University requests authority to demolish the building to eliminate associated liability and security risk and to facilitate a higher use of the land.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this yet. Per Section V.2 of Division of Engineering and Buildings Directive #1, Revised 1984 (§ 2.2-2402 Code of Virginia), DHR review is required for all demolitions. 3 and 4 Jackson Place (DHR ID # 020-5245-0024) is contributing to the eligible Virginia State University Historic District.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.9 Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) / RecWell Enabling Project

(Final Approval)

The VCU RecWell Enabling Project is located on the first floor of the VCU Parking Deck on 10th Street. It will transform the existing VCU MCV Barnes & Noble bookstore space into a vibrant new recreation and wellness facility. This first floor, 7,718 SF renovation will provide welcoming and flexible fitness spaces designed to serve students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The program includes generous open fitness areas complemented by a service desk, lockers, office space, restrooms, and back-of-house support areas. Enhanced by abundant natural light, the main fitness space is envisioned as an urban harbor — a place of energy, restoration, and community — while offering the campus population a place to exercise, recharge, and connect within the dynamic setting of the VCU Medical Campus.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.10 Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) / Construct Outdoor Pavilion Space

(Final Approval)

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) intends to construct a multipurpose outdoor uncovered pavilion in the area shown below of the Azalea DBVI campus. Some intended uses include class instruction, student gatherings, and agency social gatherings. No means of egress from adjacent buildings will be impacted or changed, other than by construction activities. Clear paths of egress that are to be maintained will be shown in subsequent submissions. The intention of the proposed site concept is to create an outdoor classroom environment that supports teaching blind and vision impaired persons daily living skills such as outdoor cooking and “do-it-yourself” home repair while also providing flexible gathering spaces for outdoor activities such as dining, seated events for up to 50 people, or social gatherings.

DHR Comments: The property at Azalea Avenue is recorded as an unevaluated historic resource in DHR’s VCRIS system (DHR ID # 043-5007). DHR has not received this and we will need additional information to understand if review is needed.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

2.11 College of William & Mary / Central Plant Cooling Tower, College of William & Mary Law School

(Final Approval)

The project includes the removal and replacement of the chillers and boilers at the W&M Law School. The existing chillers and boilers have been removed and temporary systems are onsite to provide HW/CW to the facilities. The former equipment was located within an exterior rectangular brick screen wall, approximately 11’-5” high. A new mechanical yard will be located in the same general area to the south of the Law School adjacent to the graduate housing facilities and will be oval in shape and approximately 6,950 square feet in size.

DHR Comments: DHR has not received this and does not need to review this unless required by another agency.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

3.0 PROJECT REVIEWS

3.1 James Madison University (JMU) / Construct Student Housing

(Preliminary Approval)

The project consists of a new five-story student housing building on James Madison University's East Campus, along with associated site improvements and a standalone support outbuilding.

DHR Comments: DHR reviewed this project EIR and requested additional information regarding the design (i.e. massing and height) and viewshed impacts to understand if historic resources will be impacted, including drawings if available.

DHR File No. 2025-4980

Board Comments:

1. Study ways to better integrate the two courtyards and create a more cohesive experience.
2. Further study the siting of the building; consider creating a more integrated siting that is considerate of the existing structure's views and shade.
3. Further explore the materials to consider site impact and reduce the feel of massiveness.

Motion to Recommend Preliminary Approval with Board Comments and Pending Further

DHR Review: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

3.2 Virginia State University (VSU) / Renovate Summerseat

(Final Approval)

This project brings together all the College of Agriculture components onto one site to demonstrate research, promote agriculture instruction, and provide cooking classes/instruction to enhance the lives of the students and the surrounding community.

DHR Comments: VSU has been coordinating this project with DHR and are currently awaiting the results of an archaeological investigation. DHR requests further renderings of the project.

DHR File No. 2023-3264

Board Comments: None.

Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR's Archaeological Investigation: Jill Nolt

Second: Gaby Rengifo

Vote: 4-Y 0-N

4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The next AARB meeting will be held on Friday, April 10th, in the Patrick Henry Building in the East Reading Room.

5.0 MEETING ADJOURNED – [11:13am](#)