

**Approved Minutes**  
**Art and Architectural Review Board**  
**February 6, 2026, at 10:00 am**  
**James Monroe Building, Conference Rooms C, D, & E**  
**101 N 14<sup>th</sup> St, Richmond VA 23219**

**1.0 ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1 CALL TO ORDER – 10:01am**

*Members Present:* Lynden Garland (Chair), Anca Lipan (Vice Chair), Megan Melinat, Jill Nolt, Stanley Rayfield, Anne Smith

*Absent:* Gaby Rengifo

*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:* Stanley Rayfield

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

**1.3 OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**2.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1 Department of General Services (DGS) / Refurbishment of Monroe Family Grave Markers**

*(Final Approval)*

This proposal seeks to refurbish the grave markers for President James Monroe's wife, Elizabeth, and youngest daughter, Maria. The refurbishment will consist of replacing the concrete slab, on which the current bronze grave makers are affixed, with a granite slab. The current bronze grave makers will remain the same but on a new granite slab. The replacement granite slab will be the same/similar to the granite slab that was used for the reinterment of President James Monroe's eldest daughter, Elizabeth "Eliza" Kortright Monroe Hay.

*Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Comments:* DHR reviewed this and the project will not result in adverse impacts to historic resources.

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.2 Department of Military Affairs / SWVA Regional Readiness Center Repair and Restoration**

*(Final Approval)*

This project will repair and restore an existing facility (approximately 52,800 SQFT) to provide new finishes, roof access, HVAC upgrades, electrical & data drops in various rooms, removal of existing equipment and appurtenances that are no longer required and update any code related issues. By Additive Bid Item, a new entry foyer will be constructed outside the existing front doorway within the existing covered entryway. The new entry will match the existing in materials and appearance.

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

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.3 Department of Veterans Services (DVS) / Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center Smoking Gazebo Demo**

*(Final Approval)*

The smoking gazebo located at the Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center, was constructed in June 2008 and is an approximately 130 square-foot wooden structure with a ramp that was once used by the residents to avoid the outside elements such as rain while smoking. DMVCC is now 100% smoking free and while the structural condition of the gazebo is fair, it is unusable due to nicotine smell/stains. DMVCC will use in-house labor to demo the gazebo and ramp and will turn the area back into lawn/turf. The Department of Veterans Services/DMVCC has submitted and received the results from the archives search conducted by the Department of Historic Resources. The Department of Veterans Services/DMVCC will obtain review and approval from the Art and Architectural Review Board prior to demolition.

*DHR Comments:* DHR has not received/reviewed this, and we are required to review the demolition of all state-owned properties, whether historic or not.

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval Pending DHR Review:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.4 Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) / Grace and Laurel Residence Center Demolitions**

*(Final Approval)*

The project site is the 700 block of West Grace Street. This site is not included in a historical district but shares borders and is relatively close to several historic districts. One half block to the south of the site begins the Monroe Park Historic District which is home to two other VCU dormitories, Brandt and Rhoads Halls. Roughly a block southwest of the site, begins the West Franklin Street Historic District. Directly north of a portion of the site, across the alley, is the Broad Street Historic District. The two properties that currently occupy the 700 block of West Grace Street are to be demolished to make way for the construction of a new dormitory for VCU.

*DHR Comments:* DHR reviewed the demolition of the ca. 1940 720 W. Grace and provided comments to DEQ (Project 25-118S) on August 12, 2025, with our opinion that the demolition will not adversely impact historic resources due to loss of historic integrity, not being within a historic district and the erosion of the once extant contemporaneous buildings on the block. 700 W. Grace is not 50 years old, the traditional cutoff for historic properties and we do not believe Criteria Consideration G applies (exceptional historic significance for buildings not yet 50). It is not in a historic district. No historic resources will be adversely impacted by the demolitions.

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.5 Virginia Tech (VT) / Wood Processing Lab Door Replacement** *(Final Approval)*

The project proposes improvements to a freight entrance at the Wood Processing Lab to enhance durability, functionality, and long-term maintenance performance. The scope of work includes replacement of the existing overhead door with a pair of swinging metal doors measuring 4'-0" wide by 7'10" high.

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

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.6 Virginia Tech (VT) / Kelly Hall Doors**

*(Final Approval)*

The project proposes improvements to the primary building entrances at Kelly Hall to enhance durability, functionality, and long-term maintenance performance. The scope of work includes replacement of the existing 4'-0" wide by 9'-8" high pairs of automatic clear anodized aluminum storefront doors at two building entrances. The existing entrance configuration features pairs of automatic doors with a center divider. The proposed improvements are designed to enhance functionality while maintaining compatibility with the existing entrance vestibules and curtain wall systems.

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

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

*Vote:* 6-Y 0-N

## **2.7 Virginia Department of General Services (DGS) / 9<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Parking Deck Improvements**

*(Final Approval)*

Description of Work: Interior renovation of grade level office space and lobby, which requires the addition of a new fresh air intake louver located through the existing garage deck opening. The louver will be located 25 feet above finished grade.

*DHR Comments:* DHR reviewed this and the project will not result in adverse impacts to historic resources.

*Board Comments:* None.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval:* Jill Nolt

*Second:* Anne Smith

Vote: 5-Y 0-N; 1 abstain (Anca Lipan)

### 3.0 PROJECT REVIEWS

#### 3.1 Virginia Military Institute (VMI) / New Market Battlefield Historical Park Improvements

*(Preliminary Approval)*

This project is predominantly an interior alteration to the (1971) Virginia Museum of the Civil War and repairs to the (1818 & 1825) Bushong farmhouses, which are classified as historic buildings by the Department of Historic Resources. The (1984) maintenance building is also being altered, along with some site improvements to the entry plaza and battlefield trails.

*DHR Comments:* DHR review is ongoing. We concurred that the proposed work to Bushong Farmhouses (1818 and 1825) will not adversely impact historic architectural resources as they are being done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The 1970 Virginia Museum of the Civil War building was designed by Marcellus Wright & Partners Architects, a well-known architecture firm from Richmond, Virginia. The museum building has not been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the Virginia Landmark Register and National Register of Historic Places. DHR is currently awaiting the results of that architectural survey to understand impacts to the Museum. Regarding archaeology, any new ground disturbance should be preceded by an archaeological survey.

*Board Comments:*

1. Study ways to further refine the entry plaza to retain and echo the geometric rigor displayed in the building itself.
2. Study the patterning of the transition areas in the entry plaza, as well as the bollard placement.
3. Study and refine the planting plan to more closely align with the history and story of the property; consider a planting plan that comprises native species.
4. Consider incorporating the rear patio and sidewalk more clearly into the overall design. Provide wayfinding to highlight the space. Include renderings from the pedestrian perspective in the next presentation.
5. Consider adding a second canopy at the entrance for passenger drop-off.
6. Revisit the formality of the Visitor Center and battlefield entry approach; consider an approach that more closely aligns with the site's history as a battlefield.
7. Include renderings of the lean-to in the next presentation.
8. Identify the material and color of the elevator addition in the next presentation.
9. Provide more renderings of the approach from a vehicle and pedestrian perspective.

10. Provide materials and colors at the next submission.

*Motion to Recommend Preliminary Approval with Board Comments and Pending DHR*

*Review: Jill Nolt*

*Second: Anne Smith*

*Vote: 5-Y 0-N; 1 abstain (Anca Lipan)*

### **3.2 Virginia State University (VSU) / BOLT Leadership Center for Social Responsibility**

*(Final Approval)*

The project is new construction that programmatically expands the amount of co-curricular space for the growth and development of Virginia State University's student body. The project is a two-story, 59,490 gross square feet, steel framed building with an exterior skin comprised of masonry brick veneer, aluminum composite paneling, and curtain wall glazing. The project is non-separated mixed use with a primary occupancy of Assembly (A-3) with accessory occupancies of Business (B) and Storage (S-1 and S-2).

*DHR Comments: DHR reviewed this and the project will not result in adverse impacts to historic resources.*

*Board Comments:*

1. Reconsider the use of the rusticated brick by the entrance; consider using the alternative field color.

*Motion to Recommend Final Approval with Board Comments: Anca Lipan*

*Second: Stanley Rayfield*

*Vote: 5-Y 0-N; 1 abstain (Jill Nolt)*

## **4.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 4.1** The next AARB meeting will be held on Friday, March 6, in the Patrick Henry Building in the East Reading Room.

## **5.0 MEETING ADJOURNED – 11:42am**