

DVAA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: DVAA

Attendance:

Rachel Gordon, Kim Martin, Lily Smith, Dan Hust, Heinrich Strauch, Wendy Prince, Rennick Scholt, Ken Sable, Mary Sue Sweeney Price, Jane Roth, Robin Dintiman, Leif Johansen.

1. Call to Order

- Dan Hust called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes made by MarySue Price seconded by Ken Sable.
 - Motion passed.
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3. Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Did not meet this past month, however Dan Hust will provide minutes from the last meeting.

Governance Committee

The Board Director position description was circulated by Mary Sue Price. The board unanimously agreed to accept this written document.

Motion to accept board position description as presented to be applicable to current and potential board members. Approve Rachel Gordon, seconded by Ken Sable.

Facilities Committee – Rachel Gordon & Ariel met and will update us soon.

Finance Committee – Heinrich Strauss will meet next week and present an analysis on the year and make projections.

Fundraising Committee – Lily Smith announced and described the upcoming Garden Party to be held on 8/30 at Ladybug Land in Cocheton Center. Goal to have 150 people. Opening costs are \$100 a ticket and that increases to \$125 - \$150 as we get closer to the event date. Also to include an Auction themed on experiences. Seeking assistance to solicit donations. Tickets are

part of the goal and auction is the remainder of the financial goal. Projected costs include the food – we need to bring in all the food. Owner will provide the space and connection to a chef. The venue is “Shabby Chic”. Odetta Hartman Trio will perform. We need a lighting design person and volunteer servers. Fundraising target is \$30k.

Communications Committee – MarySue Price recommends along with Leif that DVAA should communicate a grounded, solid footing in the community that we are here and strong. Ariel will draft such a statement and send it to Lief to align our statement of prosperity.

Surveys - 90 responses to the survey. Pitched at every event and posted to UDC Network.

Program Committee – Did not meet.

50th Anniversary Gala Committee – Meeting monthly. Seminary Hill first weekend in May or several in late June. Possibly new Sullivan County airport location. The Board was excited to learn about the updated airport, and all seemed enthusiastic to learn more about this event space.

Treasurers Report: Heinrich Strauch discussed highlights. Public direct support 2x. \$339k 15% above where budgeted. Costs are 13% below budget. So, we are 30% overall above where we expected to be – all great news. We are just about fully staffed except the Big Eddy Film Festival director is yet to be on payroll.

Motion to adopt Rachel seconded by Ken Sable

4. Executive Director’s Report (Ariel)

See Director’s Report.

Highlights:

- Increased presence at local events including at the farmer’s market. Kim Martin has had great success signing up names recently at the Barryville market.
- Gallery/Grants Manager Tanner Simon marking his 1 year anniversary.
- County funding still outstanding.
- Performing Arts Manager position was vacant, so related revenues and expenses were down.
- Individual Membership is up. Membership is up except for the sponsor level of \$150 and over.
- NYSCA moved the deadline up to June so now July is less of a burden, and Ariel can focus on Riverfest. NYSCA grant goal to us is \$221 and 30% is admin and \$160 in regrant funds.
- SCR – Community Arts Grants cap increased to \$7,500. Individual Artist Fellowship cap increased to \$5,000.
- Business support guides printed and distributed. Joana utilizing to attract potential supporters.

- Big Eddy 9/25 – 9/28 – more submissions than in years. DCP rental possible if we don't receive SCVA grant.
 - Deep Water Literary Festival was successful. Mary Sue Price notes she received feedback on Ariel as a panel moderator that was thoughtful and well prepared.
 - Retro cinema launches this month. To be held the first Thursday each month.
 - Audit season for regrants. We are expected to audit 75% of our grantees.
 - Riverfest – DVAA producing an 8 page spread insert to mark the 35th year of Riverfest in the River Reporter. 2,000 distributed through RR and 3k distributed. Looking to partner with the Sullivan Democratic newspaper to produce a similar insert for the Big Eddy Film Festival.
 - The Board discusses guidelines for Poster submissions for 2025 and onward;
 - Board agrees to contact the artist in question and ask for a replacement poster.
 - Contact our attorney and insurance agent for legal counsel.
 - Board votes in favor of keeping submitted poster in auction with two members abstaining.
 - Jeff and Ariel have met with Barbara to move Feasibility Study along for Capital Project.
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5. Other Business - None

6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Mary Sue seconded by Jane.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.