

DVAA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2025

Time: 6:07 PM – 7:35 PM

Location: DVAA

Attendance:

Robin Dintiman, Rachel Gordon, Dan Hust, Alessandra Iavarone, Leif Johansen, Fabiana Lotito, Kim Martin, Wendy Prince, Ken Sable, Ariel Shanberg, Lily Smith, Rennick Soholt, Heinrich Strauch, and Mary Sue Sweeney.

Meeting Summary:

The board meeting began with administrative matters including quorum confirmation, and agenda adjustments, followed by a moment of silence for 9/11.

Financial discussions centered around a correction to the Wayne Bank account balance, stable financial position, and the success of the garden party fundraising event which exceeded its goals. The board reviewed various organizational initiatives including new board member appointments, upcoming events like the film festival and 50th anniversary gala, and new projects such as mural partnerships and fiscal sponsorship opportunities.

1. Call to Order

- Dan called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda with minor corrections Leif and second by Lily. Consent Agenda approved.

3. New Business

Dan introduces prospective new board member Fabiana through February 2026. Motion to approve Fabiana's nomination by Heinrich and second by Ken. All in favor.

4. Committees:

Governance Committee

The committee met with and nominated Fabiana. Will continue to focus on new board nominations.

Prepare and implement board self-assessment. Distribute to board to review the code of ethics and whistleblower policy, with the goal to be signed by all board members.

Facilities Committee

Rachel will schedule a meeting for the Facilities Committee with Ariel after the BEFF is completed.

Rachel will invite Kristin Janowski to join the Facilities Committee.

Treasure's Report

Heinrich noted that a mid-year financial review was in progress but had not yet been completed.

Heinrich clarified that DVAA undergoes a fiscal review rather than a full audit, but may require an audit during a capital campaign as the organization's annual operations will likely exceed \$750,000 (threshold amount for a full audit).

Fundraising Committee

Lily reported the garden party fundraising event was a success.

Ariel reported a \$30,000 goal by raising \$39,150, with approx. \$19,000 coming from individual donations and \$13,000 from ticket sales. The balance came from the auction.

The net proceeds were approximately \$36,000 after covering direct expenses, with about \$1,200 spent on reusable supplies and equipment.

5. Executive Director Report

Ariel acknowledged staff members Naomi and Tanner's one-year anniversaries.

The board approved a motion to consider a \$25,000 anonymous donation as board-restricted funds, allowing the executive director to use it as needed while maintaining oversight. Motion made by Mary Sue that that the unprecedented 25k gift be restricted until such time as our Executive Director deems otherwise. Seconded by Lily.

Ariel reported that while individual and household memberships were up, the organization had not retained or created new members at higher donation levels. Membership record is high with 300 members; however, at the lower-level memberships.

BEFF now include the rental of a DCP projector system for the 2025 festival, thanks to a \$20,000 grant from Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, allowing them to attract higher-quality films.

Ariel noted that Kristen Fitzpatrick is being onboarded as managing director for next year's film festival.

6. Old Business/New Business

No discussion

Meeting Adjourn 7:35 called by Wendy Prince. Seconded by Leif Johansen.