

DVAA Full Board Meeting October 9, 2025

PRESENT IN PERSON: Dan Hust, Chair; Kim Martin; Fabiana Lotito; Ariel Shanberg; PRESENT BY ZOOM: Mary Sue Sweeney Price; Leif Johansen; Lily Smith; Rennik Soholt; Alessandra Iavarone; Robin Dintiman; Rachel Gordon

Meeting commenced at 6:05 p.m.

Dan opened the meeting by stating that he believes Sullivan County's \$40,000 annual grant to the DVAA will continue in 2026, even though that will likely be a tough budget year for County government.

Kim motioned and Fabiana seconded the acceptance of amended minutes and the consent agenda. Approval was unanimous.

Rachel affirmed the Facilities Committee had met and discussed all the projects that need to be focused on at the DVAA's main building: the replacement of both the gallery and shop doors, the repaving of the driveway leading to the rear parking area, the completion of the new flooring on the ground level, the repair of the back steps, the replacement of rotting boards on the front balcony, and the plowing of the driveway and sidewalk. Rachel and Ariel will be seeking potential contractors for the above.

Ariel said he and Heinrich will soon begin work on the 2026 proposed budget, on which the board will vote at its next meeting in December.

While Fundraising did not meet this past month, Lily is working on systematizing the DVAA's approach to fundraising events, so that everyone understands what is needed and expected across all fundraising efforts. Ariel added that he's finalizing an online auction of local artists' paintings (with staff and Alessandra) and is prepping for the End of the Year Appeal.

As Communications Chair, Leif reported that the DVAA survey has already received 110 responses and is still going. He noted that the Committee also discussed the 50th anniversary logo.

Dan provided an update on the 50th Anniversary Gala Committee meeting, including its intent to mount the Gala at the Sullivan County Airport (though the exact location – a tent on the tarmac or a hangar – is yet to be determined). He noted that the Committee is ONLY focused on the Gala, not on other 50th anniversary events in 2026, which will be under the purview of committees like Fundraising, Communications and Programs.

Ariel gave both the Treasurer's Report (in Heinrich's absence) and his Executive Director's report, correcting a few figures in the fiscal reports (all to DVAA's favor) and noting that we're

just a few payments away from closing out our mortgage for 37 Main Street and loan payments to founder Elaine Giguere.

Ariel said the Big Eddy Film Festival racked up almost twice the ticket sales from the year before – and the best merchandise sales in the past five years. He also noted the success of the digital cinema equipment rental and our hope to own such a system in the coming years.

There being no other business, Rachel moved to adjourn, Alessandra seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Hust, Chair