

DVAA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2025

Time: 6:41 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: DVAA

Board Members in Attendance:

Robin Dintiman, Rachel Gordon, Dan Hust, Alessandra Iavarone, Wendy Prince Kim Martin, Jane Roth, Lily Smith, Rennie Soholt, Mary Sue Sweeney Price.

Staff:

Ariel Shanberg

1. Call to Order

- Dan Hust called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM.
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Jane Roth, seconded by Wendy Prince.
 - Motion passed.
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3. Committee Reports

Executive Committee

- Dan reported the committee supports a **net goal of \$100,000** for the **Gala Fundraiser** tentatively scheduled for **May 2026**.
- Ariel shared a comparison: Catskills Art Space grossed \$150,000 in their 2023 annual fundraiser with about \$49,000 in expenses.
- Mary Sue Sweeney Price emphasized that **investing funds will be necessary to raise significant funds**.
- Dan Hust will research **monthly executive coaching** costs for Ariel, who had this support previously via a grant and found it valuable.

Governance Committee

- Mary Sue Sweeney Price reminded the board that the committee supports **Board Development and succession planning**.
- Committee is currently:
 - Reviewing **Bylaws**

- Distributing a **Board Self-Evaluation Survey**
 - Preparing a **Conflict of Interest form** for all board members
- Goal: **Diversify board member talents** to strengthen team collaboration.

Facilities Committee

- Rachel Gordon will meet with Ariel to discuss specific facility matters.

Finance Committee

- Treasurer Heinrich Strauch is currently out of the country.
- Ariel reported **\$3,000 in undeposited Shop vendor consignment checks** have now been resolved.
- The FY24 **990 and Financial Review** is the next major financial focus.

Fundraising Committee

- Lily Smith reported the committee **did not meet in June**.
- Ongoing efforts with **Doris' property** for a summer fundraiser:
 - No Plan B secured yet.
- "Art Giving" Community-Painting Project:
 - 3 featured artists are "completing their community paintings"
 - Revenue split will be **50/50 with artists**; one artist is donating **100% of proceeds**.
 - Auction will be held online via DVAA's account with either BiddingOwl.com or GiveButter.com

Communications Committee

- Ariel reported results from a distributed survey with **83 responses** to date.
 - Respondents showed nearly equal interest in:
 - Theater
 - Live Performance
 - Visual Arts
 - Live Music
 - Film

Program Committee

- Did not meet this month.

50th Anniversary Gala Committee

- The committee met and is chaired by **Roberta Byron Lockwood**.
 - Seminary Hills is being considered as the **gala venue**.
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4. Executive Director's Report (Ariel)

- The **Business Supporter Program** is going well.
 - **New staff are bonding well** – acknowledged with a “bravo” to Ariel.
 - Several **grant deadlines approaching**: June 17 for NYFA Reserve Funds Grant and June 26 for NYSCA SCR Program.
 - Discussion on the **Black Library**: Encouragement to apply for a grant (not yet submitted).
 - At recent SCCO Concert at Tusten Theatre, Rennick's son volunteered at the popcorn machine – the board expressed pride.
 - **Volunteer Appreciation Event**:
 - 28 attendees
 - Several new volunteer signups
 - Another event is planned soon
 - **DCP (Digital Copyright Protection) Projection System**:
 - Not yet obtained, but needed for future film screenings
 - Ariel sits on the board of a **Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association**. Event Grants Program being refocused to enhance "**heads on beds**" at lodging venues whose “bed-tax revenues” support the funding program
 - Mary Sue will share a model from New Jersey where this was successful.
 - Updates on **Riverfest**:
 - **With Farm Arts** unable to participate, staff have envisioned a new **Riverfest parade**
 - **Avian Amble**
 - Riverfest vendor slots are nearly full.
 - The **Shop downstairs** continues to perform strongly.
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5. Other Business

- Ariel spoke for 39 minutes.
 - The Secretary formally requests that **30 minutes be reserved** on future agendas for the **Executive Director's Report**.
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6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Wendy Prince, seconded by Lily Smith.
- Meeting adjourned at **8:00 PM**.

- Submitted by Wendy Prince, Board Secretary, June 16, 2025.