

Board Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023

Present: Jane Roth, Lilly Smith, Dan Hust, Heinrich Strauch, Ariel Shanberg, Jeffrey Allison

On Zoom: Ken Sable, Rachel Gordon, Leif Johansen, Wendy Price, Hester Greene

Dan called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Opening Remarks: Dan welcomed Wendy Price to observe prior to committing to join the Board and the Board vote on new members in February. Dan also welcomed Jeff who will give a report on the Capital Project.

Review of Minutes: Motion to accept minutes as written made by Heinrich, seconded by Rachel and unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report: (Full report distributed. The following are highlights)

Tusten Jazz was a success; musicians expressed desire to come back; much praise for Kazzrie Jaxen's new work Art in Sixes is big success; \$17,383 in sales to date; expansion of program to include 2 performances by Yarnslingers well received.

Gallery and Shop closed 12/24-1/2. Some discussion re staying open that week because many people in town. Several issues to be considered including availability of volunteers. Board agreed to continue discussion in future months.

Performing Arts Manager, Conor Kelly O'Brien, resigned for personal circumstances. He will provide Salon Series schedule and leads etc for Tusten programming.

Membership is thriving; number of members and membership revenue significantly ahead of last year. Both Art in Sixes and members only show in February produced new members.

Year End Appeal mailing to go out middle of next week.

Discussion re new movie screen for the Tusten. Jeff reports current screen requires much time and effort to set up and install and is old. Rachel agreed Facilities Committee will look into specifics-cost etc. Heinrich suggested Frederick of Bar Veloce and DVAA's partner in Retro Cinema might be interested in supporting a new screen.

Capital Committee Report by Jeff Allison

NYS Office of Park Recreation and Historic Preservation awarded DVAA \$70,875 (75% of projected project costs)

To begin preliminary design work, schematic designs and produce a historic structure report on the historic Arlington Hotel. Preparation of grant application was a team effort including Rachel, Mary Sue, Joe Levine (architect consultant), Jane Luchsinger and Jeff.

The design work is just the first step in this multiyear project that will require several grants in the future and sustained fundraising. Jeff recommended that fundraising for Capital Campaign be combined with fundraising for Endowment as the two are inextricably related.

RFP for an architect to fulfill this grant, ie. Produce design work and historic structure report is being prepared. It is anticipated architect will be selected by mid March.

(There are several architects who have already expressed interest in the project).

By the end of the week Dan will prepare a press release about the project and an ad for architect in the local paper.

Jeff and Ariel are to meet with Barbara Davidson to discuss fundraising consultant. First step is a feasibility study to determine if the necessary funds can be raised in this area.

Dan proposed resolution to appoint Jeff Allison Capital Project Manager. Motion to approve made by Rachel, seconded by Heinrich and unanimously approved.

Finance Committee

Heinrich reported DVAA financial position continues safe and sound.

Budget 2024

FY draft budget and notes were distributed. Ariel reviewed budget summary and budget.

Board members to review budget, ask questions, provide feed back to Ariel/Heinrich by 12/22.

Budget 2024

Dan will call for an email vote by January 1, 2024

Fundraising Committee: 12/5/2023 Meeting Minutes distributed.

Program Committee: 12/9/24 Meeting Minutes distributed

Old Business: Discussion re Strategic Consultant indicating Strategic Consultant is necessary to enable fundraising for 50th anniversary and capital campaign. Board agreed RFP for Strategic Consultant should be issued.

Other: Hester's term as Board member ends 12/31/23 and she will resign from the Board. Dan expressed the gratitude of the DVAA for Hester's years of service and fully expects Hester will continue her involvement with the DVAA. Hester agreed.

Jeff asked Board members to submit their volunteer time (date, time, type) to him via email. All activity r/t DVAA counts.

Next Board Meeting February 8

Motion to adjourn made by Rachel, seconded by Hester, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45