

Minutes/Notes of the Board Meeting for May 19, 2026

Attendance: Ron Gardner, Brenda Twiggs, Mary Liz Stewart, Cecelia Tucker, Joan Rogers, Matt Kirk, Paul Stewart

Ron called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. Joan moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting, Cecelia seconded and the minutes were approved.

Ron noted Peter Gabak's resignation as a board member. He has been accepted as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Schenectady County Community College. He felt that the demands of his new position made it impossible to continue as a board member. Darius Sahinfar also reigned as a board member. He felt that his duties as City Treasurer at this time prevented him from continuing. He has been a board member for a considerable time.

Paul reviewed the profit and loss and balance sheet with a comparison of this year and last. Maryliz asked questions on the interest expense and advertising expenses. Paul explained that they were in line with expectations.

Maryliz presented an executive director report. A written report was provided. She noted the Black Mariner's exhibit recently crated and on tour at the Alice Moore Center and libraries. Fund Development is discussing a fall music event like Arias done last December. We are collaborating with the Troy YWCA on the Over the Edge Fundraising event. We have been looking to get a meeting with George Hurst and it seems in the works. June 1-6 we are hosting the Harriet Tubman Freedom Walkers with an "activation day" on June 6th of workshops and films. Also tours of the Gardens in collaboration with the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Jae Gayle's program at Myers (Play in 3 showings) was successful. She would like to present an expanded event. Matt Kirk talked about the John Brow Day trip on May 9th. It was fun and successful. He also commented on the Florence Farming Association trip, archaeology and possible future funding of research there through state Parks. Maryliz noted Pinksterfest in Kinderhook and tabling and also at Schuyler Mansion as a good opportunity to connect with others. Maryliz mentioned efforts to attract funds from the Championing Albany's Potential funds and submitting for future Congressionally Directed Spending. We did not get a NYSCA Reserve Fund grant. Several other grants are still pending. We are working with 518Elevated to apply jointly for a \$200,000 Cannabis Commission grant for youth programs. We are also re-applying for the Carl Touhey funds. We had gotten about \$85k for each of the last three years. The repairs on the front steps are in process.

Paul reported on what the various active committee were doing. The collections committee had one meeting and is working on cataloging our collections. Paul reported on the NEH law suit. It was in process. We could hear of some results in mid-June. Paul reported on contact with the Non-Profit Finance Fund – not a successful inquiry.

There was no new business

The meeting adjourned. Cecelia moved and Joan 2nd to adjourn.

Notes by Paul Stewart