

**Dawn Theater Governance Board – Minutes**  
**November 25, 2025, 5:30 PM**  
**Hillsdale City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**I. Call to Order at 5:35 PM**

a. Roll Call

- i. Members Present: Chris Bahash, Felicia Finch, Ron Scholl
- ii. Members Absent: Chair James Brandon (excused), Tim Sullivan (excused)
- iii. Others Present: Andrew Gelzer (TIFA), Mary Wolfram (Friends of the Dawn Theater), Jack McLain, Matthew Bentley (Hillsdale City Council), and Olivia Smith (Zoning Administrator)

**II. Consent Agenda**

- a. Motion by Scholl to approve the agenda. Second by Finch. 3-0. Motion passed.

**III. New Business**

a. Management Search Update

- i. Gelzer provided Board with update. One formal letter of intent and two serious proposals. No response from G&T Events regarding interim management counter offer.

b. Update about Online Request Forms/Online Event Requests

- i. Smith let Board know that she was working with IT to move Dawn Theater page to a more accessible location in City website. Suggesting under “Community” tab.
- ii. People are using and submitting form.
- iii. Scholl suggested providing Dawn Theater forms and information on the Friends of Dawn Theater website.

**IV. Old Business**

a. Approval of Hillsdale Renaissance’s Folk Festival – March 7, 2026

- i. Board was provided formal application and attachments
- ii. Some Board members felt as though there was not enough information regarding profit breakdown and management of the event to make a decision. Wanted to delay the decision until more information could be provided/decided by Hillsdale Renaissance and Friends of the Dawn Theater regarding pricing and responsibilities.
- iii. Finch noted the time needed to put together events. Stated applicants will not know or go through the trouble of solidifying that information if the Board will not give their approval.
  1. Gelzer stated that he spoke to Colm Maines and Hillsdale Renaissance verified that January would suffice for timing on their end. Told Board that they can vote in whatever manner they chose.
- iv. Motion to table the vote until the January meeting by Bahash. Second by Scholl. 2-1. Motion passed.

- b. Ad Astra Coffee follow up
  - i. Finch let Board know that they are under new ownership. They are licensed to produce beans, but not to serve beverages.
- c. Establishing a Regular Meeting Time
  - i. Last Tuesday of the month (as needed)
  - ii. Forgo December meeting due to Christmas
  - iii. Motion by Finch to schedule next meeting for January 27, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room of City Hall. Second by Bahash. 3-0. Motion passed.

**V. Public Comment**

- a. Wolfram noted that delaying the vote to approve the event could potentially kill the Folk Festival. Requested that the Board meet in early January. The Friends are interested in hosting events like the Folk Festival. Other private parties are outside of their wheelhouse. She detailed the money flow of events put on by the Friends. Stated that the Board should look to the Weatherwax Theater in Jackson as a model. Hillsdale Renaissance may potentially sponsor the artist fees for bands like they have in the past.
  - i. Scholl appreciated the information she provided regarding the Folk Festival event. Wished it was given to them before they voted. Agreed that meeting should be moved up.
  - ii. Smith let Board know that they could have invited her to answer any questions during that agenda item.

**VI. Theater Update – Informational**

- a. Organ Installation
  - i. Wolfram detailed that it is pending on a few things
  - ii. Bahash asked if that would be final location
    - 1. Wolfram stated that it may be. They will see how it fairs events in its location. Velvet cover coming in the mail. Potential Plexiglas cover from G&G Glass.
  - iii. Upcoming Events hosted by the Friends of the Dawn Theater
    - 1. Hillsdale Classical school play
    - 2. Scenes from the Nutcracker Ballet – Sunday, December 7, 2025

**VII. Committee Members Round Table Discussion**

- a. Bahash requested to forgo this agenda item due to time constraints (another meeting was scheduled to take place in the same room at 7:00 PM)

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Motion by Finch. Second by Scholl. 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM
- b. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 @ 5:30 PM