**AKWESASNE CULTURAL CENTER**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**
**March 21, 2025**

**Board Members in Attendance:**
Phillip White Cree, President; Lora Lee LaFrance; Tiffany Cree; Jessica Sargeant; Michelle Cook

**Staff in Attendance:**
Justin Cree, Director; Stacey Mitchell, Gift Shop Coordinator

**Guests in Attendance:**
Cecelia King; Cayde David; Mary Herne

**Absent Board Members:**
Tiffany Cree

**1. Call to Order**
Phillip called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was presented and accepted without changes.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
No minutes from the December meeting were presented for approval, as the board did not meet quorum, and there were no pressing agenda items.

**4. Introduction of Potential New Board Members**
Phillip introduced Cayde David as a potential new board member. Jessica introduced Cecelia King and Mary Herne as potential candidates for board membership.

**5. Gala Fundraiser Proposal**
Stacey presented a proposal for a Gala Fundraiser event. A motion was made by Michelle to accept the Gala Proposal, seconded by Jessica. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. IMLS Executive Order Discussion**
Justin informed the board about a recent IMLS executive order. He emphasized that losing access to IMLS funding and potentially other federal funding sources would not pose an immediate threat to the Akwesasne Cultural Center’s operations; however, it would limit the Center's outreach capabilities. Justin reassured the board that there are currently no plans to reduce staff, but this will be reviewed annually. He also mentioned that he will pursue Canadian grants through the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA), the Ontario Library System, and private foundations to bolster the center’s long-term resilience.

**7. New York State Annual Report for Libraries**
Justin presented the New York State Annual Report for Libraries, supplemented with three years of data to highlight areas of improvement and opportunities for further growth. A motion was made by Jessica to approve the annual report, seconded by Lora Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. New Board Member**

Cayde David is present at this meeting as a new member. He was asked to leave the room and Michelle made a motion to accept him as a member of the Board of Trustees. Lora Lee seconded the motion, all in favor and motion passed.

**9. Social Media Concern**
Justin raised a concern regarding hateful comments from a particular user on the library’s Facebook page. While Justin speculated that the comments might have been made by a bot, he took immediate action by banning the user. He assured the board that he would continue to monitor the situation to determine if this becomes a recurring issue.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 17, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.