

JAM Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2025 Meeting
Via Zoom

Attendees: Samantha Davidson Green, Jim Zien, Tamara Waraschinski, Jennie Chamberlain, Johanna Evans, Alex Torpey, Amber Davis Hanna, Ali Reza Punjani, Sam Kaas

Absent: Joe Major, Dan Maxell-Crosby, Craig Sterrit

Others Present:

Meeting called to order at 5:33pm.

Minutes:

Jim moved to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting; Johanna seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Board Member:

Samantha introduced Ali Reza Punjani, who is joining the Board as the Tuck Board Fellow for the 2025-26 academic year. Johanna made a motion to approve Ali joining the board; Jennie seconded. The motion was approved.

VAN Annual Meeting:

Sam and Jennie reported that the Vermont Access Network annual Meeting, held at the JAM space on May 2, 2025, was a success. The board expressed their gratitude to the JAM staff who worked the event.

Executive Session:

Jennie moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter; Sam Seconded. The board then convened in an Executive Session.

After discussion, Jennie moved to end the Executive Session; Jim seconded. The board returned to Open Session.

Director's Report:

Samantha delivered the Director's Report. Highlights include a continued emphasis on media education programs, civic engagement, and coverage of recent protests. Samantha has decided not to move forward with the upgrade to HD for cable customers discussed at the last meeting, as it will not serve enough customers to justify the high cost. JAM's relationship with Upper Valley Arts Alliance is growing.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

Samantha reported Dan's notes for the finance committee. The organization's financial reserves are lower than they were a year ago, some of which was expected and some of which is the result of market conditions. Samantha is considering ways to keep costs low in coming months.

Fundraising Committee:

Jim noted that the fundraising committee does not have a major update, but is considering how to support Samantha as she takes over fundraising and donor management in the short term.

Programming Committee:

Alex reported that the programming committee has discussed ways to diversify revenue streams, and is looking into whether there are any restrictions on revenue from a 501c3 standpoint. The committee also discussed improving metrics and data for viewers, and possible collaborations with Advance Transit. The committee continued their discussion of making civic content more accessible to a wide range of viewers.

Governance and Board Recruitment:

The Governance and Recruitment committee has not met, but plans to before the annual meeting this summer.

Strategic Plan Review:

Samantha presented an overview of progress on the three-year strategic plan (included as the second part of the Director's Report). JAM is 18 months into executing the Strategic Plan. Samantha highlights how, in the past year and a half, she has looked at the "business" side of JAM as well as the fundraising side. She also asked the board to consider how strategic planning should work going forward, and whether JAM should start the next round of strategic planning before this plan expires. Jim suggested that a Strategic Planning cycle should be sometime between 5-10 years.

Annual Meeting:

The JAM Annual Meeting will take place in person on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:30pm. A location will be determined and announced shortly.

Jim moved to adjourn; Jennie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Sam Kaas, Board Secretary.

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