

VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

1 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:07 due to connectivity issues with Zoom webinar. Host needed to connect each guest as a panelist.

2. Open Meetings Act Compliance Statement

Open Meetings Act Compliance Statement was read by Christine McGrath.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call of Committee Members: Roseanne Bornstein, Colin Boyle, Diane DiGiuseppe, Rachel Klansky, Kimberly Manis, Christine McGrath, Lisa Szamborski. SCA Representatives from HBW Middle School and Brookdale Avenue School were also in attendance.

4. Approval of January 2022 Minutes

Minutes from the January 2022 meeting were approved.

PROGRAM UPDATE

1. Family Night

Everything went well. Those who were at restaurants noted every place was crowded. Per Christine McGrath, Verona Environmental Commission made a video for their social media to present their poster entries. We should do the same for the next Family Night. Next Family Night Dates are Thursday, October 5 and March 7, 2024. Lisa confirmed with Ms. DiGiuseppe at their scheduling meeting.

2. National Night Out

We host every other year with Cedar Grove. This year it's 8/1/23. Promotes police and family relationships. We need people to man a table for the evening. Rachel Klansky volunteered to help. Mrs. Moy will follow up to see if she can volunteer as well. Also town volunteer kids' groups might be able to help.

3. Movie Night

Last year in August was Zootopia. Open to dates this year. We borrowed from the library and it skipped, so we will purchase it this year. Looking at August 14-17. Lisa is checking dates with band and other groups. She will contact the movie people who set up the screen. Lisa will coordinate with Steve Neale because they know the concert schedule.

4. Budget

Lisa met with Lynn from Essex County. This year we got \$16,921- Extra \$621. Lisa is leaving everything where it was with last year's programs. With extra money, she wants to look at community outreach. Asked for a vote to use it for Project Graduation. Colin mentioned we did this in the past, but we stopped because we were low on funding. We cut giving money for Project Graduation because they raise a lot of funds themselves. If we donate \$621. Verona will donate \$155. Cash match. Lisa needs to meet with Jen Mascara- the CFO of Verona. She has to approve ordinances. Lisa said Jen

knows already. Carolyn and Colin approved Lisa's motion to donate. All in favor- everyone raised their hand. No opposed.

5. Aware, Awake, Alive

Joel Martin presented. Overdose Prevention Act laws that allow people to speak about overdoses without getting in trouble. During Covid, videos were shown. Joel recommends offering the program to smaller groups- he thinks whole grade/auditorium is not the best way to roll out. It's a law-not a choice- that they won't prosecute. Program brought up in Public Agenda- 4-5 lawn signs are in the police station Idea for VMAC to share on Instagram and hope parents follow up with children. Lisa offered funds to Joel to buy trinkets for the students, but he thinks it wouldn't work with this age group. Christine McGrath added that maybe we could add this to 8th grade and she said she could meet with Joel to bring this down to the grade.

6. Success Street- Kristin Niemcyk

Kristin offers Internet Safety programs for adults and children. Lisa will reach out to middle school to offer a program. She went to Lisa's school and gave a seminar. Lisa working on promoting a child and parent seminar.

7. BABES Program

Offered to 2nd grade- puppet show that discusses age-appropriate issues; cigarette smoking, uncomfortable situations/drinking/5 week program. Starts this Friday in all elementary schools/parents received email about it.

8. School representatives

Per Kim, we should reach out to OLL to see about a representative. Per Christine, we should have a representative from every elementary school. Virginia can do a press release asking for volunteers too. We can use Parent Square as well. Carolyn Moy will send town email to Lisa so she can send something out for potential members.

9. Survey to committee members

Per Lisa, It's to see how we're doing and it's a survey just for VMAC members. Not required. County doesn't want/need it, but we can use it to make our organization better. Only Lisa sees it. Town might see it. Joe D'Arco, town manager, should see it. Lisa checks in with him once or twice a year

10. Future Meeting Dates

Lisa will send to us. Next meeting is July 17, 2023. Then:

October 18, 2023 January 17, 2024 April 17, 2024 July 17, 2024

11. New Business

Christine: No active plans for cannabis business. Town council election is May 9 and inauguration is July 1. Town council passed the budget.

Being no further questions or comments from Committee members or the public, the meeting was dismissed

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Klansky, Chair.