



**Verona Municipal Alliance Committee Meeting**

**July 19, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom Conference Call**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**2. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance Statement**

Open Public Meetings Act Compliance Statement was read by Rachel Klansky.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rachel Klansky.

**3. Announcements by the Committee Chair**

At a regular meeting of the Township Council held on June 26, 2023, Kimberly Manis was reappointed to a term ending 6/30/2026, and Ann Jocelyn was appointed to VMAC as coordinator (member) for a term ending 6/30/2026.

In addition, at a meeting of the Council on July 1, 2023, Council Member Cynthia Holland was named as the Council Liaison to VMAC.

**5. Roll Call**

Roll Call of Committee Members: Ann Jocelyn, Colin Boyle, Julianne Boyle, Cynthia Holland, Kimberly Manis, Rachel Klansky, Alyssa Kirby

**6. Approval of April 2023 Minutes**

Approval of April 2023 Minutes was called for by Colin Boyle and seconded by Kimberly Manis.

Motion carried.

**5. New/Other Business**

**Review Grant Year 2022 – 2023 (Ann Jocely)**



The entirety of the FY2023 grant (\$20,375) was expended with several expenses totaling \$17,673 processed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

\$7,247: Stipends to 4 club advisors  
\$2,500 to the facilitator of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade awareness program BABES  
\$1,850 to Success Street for 2 seminars  
\$776 Donation to VHS Project Graduation  
\$300 HBW Peer Leader t-shirts  
\$5,000 Heroes & Cool Kids training and support materials

### **Preview Grant Year 2023 – 2024 (Ann Jocelyn)**

At a meeting of the Council of the Township of Verona on June 26, 2023 the Council Members adopted a resolution agreeing to provide a 25% match (\$4,230.32) to the GCADA grant awarded the township (\$16,921.26) for a total cash allocation to VMAC of \$21,151.58. In addition, the VMAC and the Township have pledged a total of \$12,690.95 of in-kind services and donations.

These funds will be allocated across several existing and new initiatives to help VMAC achieve the mission. 75% of the funding will support school-based initiatives: HBW Peer Leadership, Red Ribbon Week, VHS Peer Leadership, Heroes & Cool Kids at VHS/HBW, and BABES. In the past we have also funded the Aware Awake Alive program at VHS and Peer Mediator programs in the elementary schools. Ann Jocelyn suggests that when we meet in October we consider funding these programs again. Another 25% of the funds are directed toward Community Outreach programs include Family Night, participation in Town-wide events like Fair in the Square and National Night Out. VMAC also budgets to sponsor guest speakers including Success Street. One community Outreach program that was in the budget for FY24 was a family movie night. Unfortunately, this will not be able to take place this summer as hoped. VMAC can consider reallocating these funds to other programs as mentioned above, to other community events in cooperation with the library or recreation department, or to a movie night to be scheduled. Other ideas include: family yoga night, an author visit at the library, or a professional development session or teachers and/or others in the community (MHFA from 2021?). Please share ideas or email Ann at [VMAC@veronanj.org](mailto:VMAC@veronanj.org).

### **Committee Member Recruitment (Rachel Klansky)**

The current social media coordinator for the township of Verona will be sharing VMAC's mission via social media within the next few weeks in order to promote the recruitment of new members, as well as receive feedback from community member.

Rachel has also reached out to our SCA liaisons to initiate conversations about how to best serve specific members of our community.



New members will be appointed and voted on by members of the VMAC in October.

### **National Night Out (Ann Jocelyn & Rachel Klansky)**

National Night Out will be held on August 1, 2023 and will be hosted by Verona. Ann will be reaching out to the police department to determine if VMAC can provide any support. Ann would like VMAC flyers to be distributed at the event to spread awareness. This will also be a great opportunity to recruit new members!

### **Family Night (Rachel Klansky)**

Family Night will be held on October 5, 2023. Rachel will be communicating with restaurants towards the end of August. We are looking to bring back the activity/coloring sheets at restaurants this year.

Ann Jocelyn will be confirming future dates with the Verona High School Athletic Coordinator as well as the Verona Superintendent.

### **Back to School/Clubs**

VMAC clubs will begin at the start of the 2023 – 2024 school year. Specifically, the Peer Leadership club at the High School begins before the first day of school to greet and work with the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during their orientation.

Ann Jocelyn is researching potentially hosting a social media program at the middle school Back to School Night in the fall.

### **Safe Homes**

Safe Homes month is in November. A sign up for Safe Homes is included in the welcome packets at the Verona Schools. We also advertise for Safe Homes sign up during Family Night (with the restaurant coupons) and during Fair in the Square.

National Night Out could also be an opportunity to spread Safe Homes awareness and encourage families to sign up.

Ann will be working to present Safe Homes to the council at their October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.



### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **6. Public Comments**

Being no further concerns or questions from the Committee members or public, the meeting was dismissed at approximately 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Boyle

*Approved by a quorum of the Verona Municipal Alliance Committee members at the regularly scheduled meeting on October 18, 2023.*