



VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

October 18, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

B. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance Statement was read by Rachel Klansky.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rachel Klansky.

C. ROLL CALL

1. Roll Call of Committee Members: Ann Jocelyn, Colin Boyle, Julianne Boyle, Cynthia Holland, Diane DiGiuseppe, Kimberly Manis, Rachel Klansky, Alyssa Kirby, Elizabeth Hynes, Rosanna Gionni, Stacey Puleo
2. Introduction of new committee members

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of July 2023 Minutes was called for by Rachel Klansky.
2. Motion carried.

E. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Financial Report Fiscal Year 2024: 1st quarter spending
 - i. The total approved grant for FY24 is \$21,151.28 (\$16,921.26 from the State of New Jersey through GCADA and \$4,230.32 in matching funds from the Township of Verona). \$561.44 was allocated to programs at HBW. Details on the spending will be covered in the program reports.
2. Program Reports
 - i. National Night Out August 1st – Rachel & Ann greeted the hundreds of visitors to Town Square with information on SAFE Homes and a display of children's answers to the question "I feel safe when..." 28 kids were rewarded with a new pencil for sharing their thoughts on feeling safe and it was no surprise that the majority of them feel safest when they are with their family.
 - ii. HBW Peer Leadership – Started off by greeting incoming 5th graders with a welcome letter inserted into a folder covered in words of positivity and doing an activity using those words. Peers are also planning the Red Ribbon Week theme days to focus on this year's motto of Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free. The aforementioned expenses were for the folders and the RRW incentives.
 - iii. Family Night October 5th was another success with 18 restaurants offering discounts, the library hosting game night, and schools and other organizations cancelling all evening obligations. Coupons were distributed through the Friday Folder, library, and recreation department. Each restaurant received a poster to display in the window, and activity sheets with crayons to give to families. Next Family Night is March 7, 2023 and Ann will work with VPS and other stakeholders to confirm future dates. Other ideas for March: afternoon activities, afternoon coupons, recreation family activities, others thoughts.
 - iv. SAFE Homes –In addition to introducing the program to people at the National Night Out, flyers were sent to all SCA presidents over the summer so that they could be

included in the Back-to-School packets. The flyers give information on the program and invite families to sign the pledge and join “the registry of like-minded families pledging to encourage and model positive behaviors and discourage destructive behaviors.” Currently 557 families are on the list who had taken the pledge in previous years and 14 new families have signed up this year. With families who have opted out this year, our current total is 560 families. The Town Council will declare November SAFE Homes month and we will have the opportunity to thank the Council for their support. We will run a series of social media posts on the points of the program (1 issue per week).

- v. Fair in the Square, Saturday, December 2 - Committee members are asked to volunteer one hour of their time to staff the table. Shifts begin at 11:00 for set-up and end at 5 with clean up. Possible volunteers from OLL confirmation classes to help the kids make the stressballs. Ann will secure all materials including purchasing balloons and sand.
 - vi. HEROES & COOL KIDS – We have two great advisors who will be kickstarting the program this year.
 - vii. VHS Peer Leadership – Under the umbrella of the guidance department at the high school.
 - viii. SUB-COMMITTEES – A list of programs and descriptions were circulated with the meeting agenda and July minutes. We ask each Committee member to identify programs to support outside of these regularly scheduled meetings.
 - ix. Our Lady of the Lake School – how to best involve them in our programing and offer support.
3. Discussion: Necessary Modifications for Grant Year 2023-2024
- i. \$500 to Heroes & Cool Kids for training materials
 - ii. \$168 additional for stipends for VHS and HBW Peer Leaders
 - iii. \$23 reallocated to Alliance Coordination for website fees
 1. Possible source of funding is from \$2800 allocated for Movie/Community Activity or \$776.58 Project Graduation
 2. Committee voted in favor of this reallocation of funds from the Community Activities budget (Summer Movie)
 - iv. CONSIDER REALLOCATING
 1. \$250-\$750 allocated to Success Street. Currently budget includes \$1250 for programs but the webinars are now \$500/session. Additional funding would support, first, a third program so that we could have one for each school level , and second, a professional development program for VPS teachers.
 2. Committee voted in favor of reallocating funds to Success Street from the Community Activities budget (Summer Movie).

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

G. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. October 30th – Verona Town Council Meeting on SAFE Homes 7:00 pm
2. December 2nd –Fair in the Square 11:00 am-5:00 pm
3. January 17, 2024 – Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. Being no further concerns or questions from the Committee members or public, the meeting was dismissed at approximately 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Boyle