

Vernon Arts Commission  
Minutes of October 7, 2013

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VERNON TOWN CLERK

**Commissioners Present:**

Irma Carter  
Lisa Ouelette  
Bill Wallach  
Ginny Rogala

**Associates Present:**

Andrea Nardi

**Guests Present:**

John Kopec-Vernon Town Council

13 OCT 21 AM 10:31

The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM by Acting Chair Ginny Rogala.

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of Sept. 9, 2013 as circulated. Unanimously approved.

**Treasures Report:**

**VAC Town Account Balance**(as of 10/7/13)      \$2,457.01

**FVAC Account Balance**(as of 10/7/13)      \$952.86

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously approved.

Two items were added to agenda, FVAC membership and public school programs update.

**Old Business:**

**Update on MASSMocA Trip.** Canceled ,unable to meet quota for trip .

**Update on solicitation of new members and associates.** No contacts made. Discussion followed around difficulty in recruitment. Suggested that member recruitment should be added to agenda for discussion every month. Bill noted importance of recruiting member with tech experience.

**Regional Arts Meeting.** Andrea researched commissions in the towns of Manchester, Somers and Stafford. Each commission has a chair, acting chair, secretary, treasure, and approximately 11-12 members. Their activities ranged from outdoor concerts to promoting art shows. Manchester has most helpful and informative website. Some ideas expressed for regional gathering: should be professional event, held in Spring, possible coordinate with VCAC event, send invitational letter, and (adding a personal touch) make phone calls. Irma suggested we bring ideas to next meeting. Bill felt the exchange of agenda items, such as what contributes most to other commissions recruitment, may give us insight to help with our recruitment. Lisa agreed at next meeting, have ideas of what we want the program to look like. Suggestions made to add East Hartford, South Windsor, Coventry, and Andover commissions. Andrea will research. Ginny stated that Vernon Historical Society promotes some artistic events and should be considered. Discussion followed.

**Trip to Hartford Stage.** Date is Dec.1, 2 PM matinee for Dickens, "Christmas Carol". Lisa sent a deposit of \$385 for 50% deposit (bal.\$385). Reserved 55 seats at \$14.00 per ticket to Hartford Stage. Since Town is not subsidizing this event, cost will be increased. This may affect attendance. Discussion on how to manage if this occurs. Discussion and questions around Hartford Stage refund policy for seats not filled is unclear. Andrea will contact Rep. at Hartford Stage. Once refund policy, and deadline for reservation is clarified, with agreement of commissioners, Andrea will call Irma to send out prior attendees e-mails, and contact Claudia

Ayer to submit article to "Rare Reminder".

Lisa will add event information to our website. Andrea will accept calls.

A motion was made by Irma to charge \$30.00, for Hartford Stage event, which includes ticket, bus and driver tip. Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

Lisa has sent \$100 deposit To Post Roads Bus(bal.\$500.). Departure from Vernon is 1 PM commuter parking lot, and departure from Hartford is 4:30 PM. We have ten days before Dec 1, to cancel bus reservation.

**Update on RHS Marching Band.** Lisa submitted same ad as last year, and it will be included in RHS Marching Band booklet. Lisa offered free tickets of event to commissioners.

**FVAC Membership.** Irma reported 278 letters sent, 28 renewals and 250 perspective members. She had 4 responses, totaling \$75. Irma questioned whether it would be possible to combine bulk mail postage with VCAC. Since VCAC is non-profit, Bill stated if they would allow us to use permit, it would save money. Discussion followed as to why Town does not allow VAC to use town bulk permit.

Irma shared 2 thank you notes from VAC scholarship recipients. Lisa Mueller and Kirby Staley. Irma will forward thank you notes to Bobbie.

**Public School Program Updates.** All 5 schools will be contacted by Lisa through e-mail by this week.

**New Business:**

**Upcoming VAC Program/Events.**

Irma will get notice from schools in Jan.

Bill is looking to reach out to other commissions to discuss how VAC supports the community with artistic programs. He will contact commissions to see if there are any needs or interest in our assistance with artistic aspects of their programs

Upcoming spring event - Hartford Symphony.

Lisa requested that we come prepared to discuss budget at our next meeting. She would also like to re-open discussion for supporting Vernon residents on our future bus trips.

Bill offered to attend Town Council meeting with Lisa to review our budget with them.

Irma thought that there may be an interest in future bus trips to CT. free state parks and other free attractions.

Lisa handed out VCAC fliers for Oct. Halloween Happening.

Ginny submitted Acting Chairperson list.

Nov. -Irma      March-Ginny

Dec.-Ginny    April-Irma

Jan.-Bill      May-Bill

Feb. Irma      June-Ginny

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrea Nardi, Acting Secretary

*Andrea Nardi*