

Town of Vernon  
Vernon Arts Commission  
Special Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, 07/20/15  
Vernon Community Arts Center

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
15 JUL 30 AM 11:53

**Call to Order**

7 pm – Special Meeting of the Vernon Arts Commission called to order by Sandra Justin.

**Attendance**

Sandra Justin, Commissioner / Acting Chair  
Lisa Ouellette, Commissioner / Treasurer  
Irma Carter, Commissioner  
Donna Barnas, Associate Commissioner  
John Kopec, Town Council Liaison

**Business**

- **Minutes from June 9, 2015 Special Meeting** reviewed. Motion by Sandra Justin to approve as written with no corrections / Seconded by Irma Carter.  
*Unanimously approved by Justin, Ouellette. Abstained by Carter (due to absence at 06/09/15 meeting).*
- **National Night Out (NNO) – Update**  
Lisa Ouellette and Thomas DiDio (Organizer for NNO) met with Jeff Slobodien on Monday 07/13/15 to discuss / finalize plans for the mural project. Lisa Ouellette received verbal / email permission from Mayor Champagne to use a section of the Citizen's Block storefront windows for this NNO activity. Jeff Slobodien will prepare / design a mural for public participation during National Night Out on Tuesday 08/04/15. Jeff plans to outline the mural on Monday 08/03/15 during NNO setup and 2 – 3 hours prior to the beginning of NNO. Jeff will also purchase the supplies, the cost for which will be paid for by the Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission. The mural will be created on the Citizen's Block storefront window and sidewalk – section closest to the Vernon Senior Center. Materials the VAC need to provide = table from VCAC, brochures / literature, chalk leftover from previous NNO's that can be found in the VCAC supplies.
- **Review of FY 15 Budget remaining funds – Final**  
\$27.15 was not spent in the FY15 budget (Advertising line item).
- **Allocation of FY 16 Budget funds**
  - a. Budget for FY 16 (for the record)  
Performers = \$6,000  
Advertising = \$800  
Supplies / Materials = \$40
  - b. Motion by Irma Carter to allocate up to \$500 to support music entertainment at the Friends of Valley Falls Artists' Day on 08/23/15. Motion seconded by Sandra Justin. *Unanimously approved by Carter, Justin, Ouellette.*
  - c. Motion by Sandra Justin to allocate \$275 paid to Jeffrey Slobodien for work on the National Night Out Mural Project. Motion seconded by Irma Carter.  
*Unanimously approved by Carter, Justin, Ouellette.*

**Business (continued)**

➤ **By-Laws Membership Revision**

Follow up to 06/09/15 Special Meeting discussion regarding the revision of the membership section in the VAC by-laws to include alternate commissioners with voting rights in the event a commissioner is absent from a meeting. Although a motion was presented and approved on 06/09/15 as follows: "Sandra Justin presented the proposed new wording for the membership section in the VAC By-Laws. Motion by Sandra Justin / Seconded by Lisa Ouellette to accept the new wording to add Alternate Commissioners to the VAC membership. *Unanimously approved by Justin, Ouellette, Rogala,*" the approved motion did not indicate the number of Alternate Commissioners. There was discussion about the number of Alternate Commissioners to add to the membership with differing opinions among those present at the 07/20/15 meeting.

- Motion by Sandra Justin to add to the VAC membership two (2) Alternate Commissioners with voting privileges in the absence of a Commissioner. Motion seconded by Lisa Ouellette.

*Unanimously approved by Carter, Justin, Ouellette.*

Sandra Justin will write the proposal for the changes / additions to the VAC membership section of the by-laws for review and approval by the Vernon Town Council on Tuesday 08/18/15.

➤ **Commissioners**

- **Resignation** Irma Carter submitted her resignation as a VAC Commissioner effective 08/01/15. This now leaves two (2) vacancies on the VAC.
- **New Commissioners** Vincent Bologna submitted his application to become a VAC Commissioner. Lisa Ouellette's mid-June follow up with Mayor Champagne (06/16/15 email) confirmed that Vincent Bologna's application would be considered at the next Town Council Meeting (06/29/15). Vincent's application, however, was not considered due to the town administration's interpretation of political balance on the VAC five (5) member commission. Lisa Ouellette countered that interpretation with an email to Mayor Champagne, Diane Wheelock, John Ward, and John Kopec pointing out that according to State of Connecticut Statute 9-167a RE: Minority Representation, town commissions are permitted to have four (4) members of the same political party serve on a five (5) member commission. VAC commissioners present urged the VAC liaison – John Kopec – to have Vincent Bologna's application considered at the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday 07/21/15.

➤ **Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission**

Discussion about membership drive. Irma Carter will provide the current FVAC membership list and town of Vernon voting list from which to mail membership applications. Planning will begin at the next VAC meeting in August with the goal of having the mailing complete by October.

**Next Meeting**

- Monday 08/03/15 at 7 pm – Vernon Community Arts Center

**Adjournment**

8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Ouellette, VAC Commissioner / Treasurer  
Acting Secretary for 07/20/15 VAC Special Meeting

