

VERNON ARTS COMMISSION  
Minutes of February 6, 2012

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**Members & Associates Present:**

Donna Barnas (A)                      Lori Robeau (M)  
Irma Carter (M)                        Ginny Rogala (M)  
Bobbie Orne (M)                        Bill Walach (M)  
Melissa Ralston-Jones (A)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Acting Chair Ginny Rogala. Five guests were welcomed & they introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** A motion was made & seconded to accept the October, 2011 minutes as circulated. Unanimously approved. A motion was made & seconded to approve the December, 2011 minutes as corrected (Line 4, pg. 2 should read "Veterans interested...." (not interesting). Unanimously approved. There was no meeting in January, 2012 - lack of a quorum, and, hence, no January minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

In a written statement, Irma Carter agreed to serve as "Interim Treasurer" (2/1/2012) for the remainder of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2012. The vacant position was due to the resignation of Treasurer Kevin Sharp prompted by illness. In her statement she noted she "would accept no responsibility for the transactions that took place during the period of 3/1/2011 through 12/31/2011" (Sharp's term of office). A motion was made and seconded to approve this report. Unanimously approved. She will meet with Diane Luddecke (Town Finance Office) on 2/7 to confer re: VAC funds.

Town Account (as of 12/2011)	\$8,550.00
FVAC Account	\$1,214.44

A motion was made & seconded to accept the Treasurer's financial report. Unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- Treasurer's position has been temporarily filled.
- Melissa and Bobbie drafted a recruitment letter for VAC Commissioners and Associates. It was included in the e-mail inviting guests to the February VAC meeting. There have been two responses. They will be mailed applications (either the Town of Vernon form for Commissioners or the VAC form designed for Associates). The latter was distributed to VAC members for discussion & approval. Suggestions were made and will be incorporated. Announcement of the Treasurer's position, which will be open July 1, 2012, will be added to the letter.
- Lori reported that the VAC website/facebook is in need of updates. Members agreed that there is a need to recruit someone/others with these computer skills to assist us.
- BOA Lobby Gallery committee will report soon.
- Friends of VAC membership-recruitment letter is being drafted by Lori who will e-mail-circulate to VAC for comments. It was agreed that the time frame for public distribution of this letter is June 1, 2012.

- Lori presented a draft of the VAC Requests for Funding Information and Guidelines for discussion. Amendments were suggested. It was unanimously agreed to include the Procedure For Payment/Reimbursement (drafted by Irma) in the final document - to be presented at the next meeting.
- RHS student reps for VAC will be discussed further with Jill Goldberg by Bobbie. Report at next meeting.
- Bill is formulating plans for a “Veterans Interested in the Arts” program to be sponsored by VAC.
- The date for another session of the VAC’s Long-term Planning discussion-group will be set at the next meeting. The last session was well attended, informative and thought provoking.
- Upcoming Chair Rotation for VAC: March = Lori, April = Ginny, May = Bill, June = Lori.
- Artist’s Forum on 1/24 at Mitchell’s was well attended and lively. Interesting art work was exhibited and discussed. Next Forum will be Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM at Mitchell’s. Donna will make reservations.

### **New Business:**

- Lori and Melissa reported that funding for the arts in Connecticut has changed dramatically. The emphasis in funding will now be on groups/organizations VS the individual. Collaboration will be extremely important. GHAC & DECD will sponsor a meeting in February - more information will be forthcoming from these groups.
- Relationship between the VCAC and the VAC in re: to collaboration was discussed. Perceived roles were shared. The VCAC will submit a request to VAC for funds for several upcoming events
- Lori also reported a possible 2013 grant from DECD & COA focused on local arts agencies. More information will be forthcoming.
- Bobbie shared an e-mail report from Tom DiDio re: RCA newsletter. VAC can use this vehicle for publicizing events. She will forward the RCA newsletter to VAC members monthly or as it becomes available.
- Irma reported the RHS scholarship forms will be distributed to VAC in March for evaluation and awarding of three individual arts awards in: Music, Drama, & Visual Arts.

**The next VAC meeting will be on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The Acting Chair will be Lori. Please send items you wish to put on the agenda to her.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbie Orne, Secretary