



VERONA MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairwoman Manis via zoom call.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairwoman Manis read Open Public Meeting Act statement, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members in attendance: Jim Day (Community), Councilwoman Holland (Township of Verona Municipal Government), Ann Jocelyn (Coordinator), Rachel Klansky (Past-Chair – Community), Kimberly Manis (Chair – Community), Verena Mikhael (Community), Carol Lynn Moy (Secretary - VHS), Staci Puleo (Brookdale), Tim Schmidt (Forest)

Members were reminded of the VMAC vision, mandate, and the mission to celebrate and cultivate the compassion, character, and confidence it takes to make good choices.

With a quorum of members in attendance, Chairwoman Manis proceeded with the business of the meeting. Ms. Manis called for approval of the minutes from the April 22, 2025 and July 17, 2025 meetings as circulated to members prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by the members. Ms. Manis also called for the nomination of a member for the Committee Secretary position. Ann Jocelyn nominated Carol Lynn Moy. Kim Manis seconded the motion and Ms. Moy was appointed to the position by a unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL & PROGRAM REVIEW

Ann Jocelyn provided an overview of the Committee finances and program initiatives confirming that the funding, allocation of funds, and program initiatives are all proceeding according to the stated plan for fiscal year 2026.

FY2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

FY26 grant totals \$22,625 (\$18,100 from the State through GCSUD and a 25% match of \$4,525 from the Township) plus in-kind match of \$13,575.

1st quarter FY26 expenditures & activities (July-September)

1st quarter expenditures were \$2500 for Grant Coordination. An additional \$2,599.50 was encumbered for 12 sessions of the Art & Meditation program and \$199.50 for Red Ribbon Week. Committee Member Day requested a printout of the expense summary. Coordinator Jocelyn offered to share detailed spreadsheets in place at any time and will prepare a summary for the Committee members prior to future meetings.

First quarter program initiatives included: National Night Out opioid awareness efforts, Welcome Back events with HBW Peer Leaders focused on incoming 5th graders, Heroes & Cool Kids applications at VHS, SAFE Homes pledge form distribution through back-to-school packets, Art & Meditation at Verona Public Library.

2nd quarter FY26 planned activities (October-December)

- Oct. 8: Family Night -16 restaurants, 2 businesses. Rescheduled from 9th due to an unexpected conflict
- Oct. 25: Fall-o-ween, DEA TakeBack Day
- Oct 27-31: Red Ribbon Week/HBW Peers “Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free”. VPD visit with item funded by the township’s Opioid Settlement grants.
- November: traditionally declared SAFE Homes month by the Council. Jocelyn working with the Clerk to add this to the agenda. Social media will be used to reinforce message.
- Dec 6: Fair in the Square. Call for adult volunteers to provide outreach/information the community and to support OLL and VHS students helping with stress ball making.
- Ann Jocelyn is working with Success Street to develop a webinar/workshop on risk-taking, acceptance, rejection. Possible input from the VPS professionals.
- BABES confirming the schedule for program in early 2026 (Tully/Mr. Freund at Laning)

Sub-Committee Interest: The coordinator reiterated opportunities for members to become more actively involved in various programs by joining or forming sub-committees. As part of this conversation, Chairwoman Manis mentioned the possibility of adding a youth member to the committee. Members indicated that they think that would be beneficial and add a unique perspective to discussions.

Strategic Plan & FY2027 Allocation: Coordinator Jocelyn indicated that the financial plan for FY27 funding will need to be approved at the January meeting and the Council will be asked to pass a resolution agreeing to the funding match. FY27 funding is the same as FY26. The financial plan will be preceded by a multi-year strategic plan which will require a needs assessment study with members of the committee and community through the use of focus groups and surveys. Tim Schmidt expressed interest in this process. More information will be circulated to members.

FY26 meeting schedule: 3rd Wednesday after quarter-end: January 21 & April 15, 2026

There being no other public comment or additional business to address, the Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Submitted by: Ann Jocelyn & Carol Lynn Moy

ROLL CALL VOTE: taken at 1/21/26 meeting

AYES: Boyle, Klansky, Manis, Mikhael, Moy, Puleo

NAYS: none

ABSENT: Tamburro, DiGiuseppe, Schmidt

ABSTAIN: Cuartas, Miller (as designee for DiGiuseppe), Kirby-Pinto, O’Sullivan, Tully

Respectfully submitted: Ann Jocelyn