

**Volunteers Assisting the Disabled  
Board Meeting  
Minutes  
May 26, 2021**

**Board Members:** Present- Linda Johnson, Keith Moss, Carina Grennan, Sue Harris, Brad Ross, Todd Nuppau, Ian McIlhargey; Not Present- Brandon Lesner, Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek

**VAD Members Present:** Mary Barry-Bodine, Carol Calvert, Kenny Haran, Lorraine Haran, Michelle Haran, Jeremy Head, Jillian LaMothe, Scott Lehmann, Jessica Parrish, Kendra Verran, Jake Wedlick, Chris West, Rosie Whitcher-Appel.

**I. Opening**- The meeting was called to order at 7ish PM by Linda Johnson.

- A. Welcome Back- Linda welcomed everyone back to an open board meeting after such a long break due to covid.
- B. Meetings- Having meetings by ZOOM may seem weird and might need some adjustments as we go but these ARE official meetings and this is the first of four ZOOM meetings this year that will count as attendance toward the annual meeting. Peach is not in attendance but will watch the ZOOM meeting recording and type up the minutes from that.
- C. Annual Meeting-
  1. Rules- The annual meeting in September is open to all but in order to vote or be elected to the board you have to have attended a certain amount of board meetings. You must have attended one meeting to vote and two meetings to run for election. If you are interested in running for the board (and are eligible to) please let a board member know before the day of the annual meeting so that you can be put on the ballot. The meetings that count for this include not only the four meetings this year but also the in-person board meetings that we had in October 2019 and January 2020.
  2. Date- The annual meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in September and in person.
  3. Location- The place has yet to be determined but we are looking for an appropriate place including one that allows us to social distance. We no longer have access to the Beaumont meeting room (due to covid).
- D. ZOOM Recording- Mary Barry-Bodine asked if the ZOOM videos will be available on the VAD website after the meeting so that those who could not attend could watch the recording later (which, of course, would not count as attending the meeting). Linda said that she is OK with this. Mary also added that she thinks that the ZOOM meetings are useful because they save people travel time, do not rely on the weather, and allow those who can't be at the meeting in person to still attend. Maybe we can have in-person meetings and somehow enable those not there to participate live through ZOOM. Carina will work on this through YouTube and let us know.

**II. Financial Reports (Keith):**

- A. Current Reports- Keith has the financial from Feb. 2020- April 2021 completed but it's too hard to share them on-screen so he reviewed out loud just the April 2021 financials and will send all three of the financial reports to everyone who attended this meeting.
- B. Missing Donation- There was a check donated by a friend of Michael Powell's from Daimler Chrysler that we have not been able to find. It is assumed that it is in VAD's extra PayPal account. Linda will look into it and once the donation is found she will let Michael know.

**III. Virtual Camp 2021:** Sue Harris

- A. Overall- Things are going well.

- B. Budget- There are up to 47 people signed up for virtual camp. The budget was projected for 50 and we are well under budget.
- C. Camp Kits- The camp kits will be going out soon and Sue will be posting updates for activities on-line. Todd has been helping to put the kits together.
- D. Platform for Virtual Camp 2021- There was a lot of discussion about Virtual Camp and how it should be presented by social media. Sue explained that it is planned to be launched from her Facebook page the VAD Family Cozy Corner. Todd thinks that since camp is such a big part of VAD that the main site for virtual camp should be the VAD website. It may be too late for this but virtual camp needs to at least be linked to the VAD website. It was suggested that a separate page could be created just for virtual camp so that it can be available JUST for those who are registered for camp. An event page can be created. Another suggestion was to dedicate a Facebook page just for VAD virtual camp and archive it when it's over. Those folks who do not have Facebook would have to create an account to participate in virtual camp (and then they can delete it after). Sue explained that she will not only be using the Cozy Corner she will also be using email and ZOOM for virtual camp and that the instructions for the events/activities will be in the camp kits (boxes). This should allow for anyone who wants to participate in virtual camp to have an avenue to use.
- E. Partial Participation- Can people who did not register for camp and/or do not want a kit sent to them but still want to participate in the camp activities do so? Maybe a visitor's pass could be created and those who want to participate can buy/use their own supplies (like the ones in the kits). Sue will work on how to open up virtual camp for those who are not official registered but want to be a part of it.

#### **IV. Camp 2022:** Linda Johnson

- A. In-Person Camp- As of now we are planning to have in-person camp in 2022. We currently do not have the dates set but Todd will have it by June's board meeting (barring any set-backs due to the pandemic).
- B. Camp Planning- Camp planning meetings will not start until after the 2021-22 board is elected.
- C. Outreach/Recruiting for Camp- Due to camp being "on hold" for two years we are going to have to do some outreach to potential VAD campers and volunteers (such as campers who have aged out of MDA camp in the last 3 years). We need to connect with people and get the word out about camp. Todd said that Jake Wedlick plans to go up to Cavell when MDA has a one-day open house to recruit campers. In addition, Todd plans to talk to Maggie about how to contact graduated campers.
- D. Covid and Camp- Linda explained that she and the entire medical staff (which includes herself, Mary Barry-Bodine, Erin Bodine, Jillian LaMothe, Marie Clavenna, and Michelle Haran) have had serious discussions regarding covid and camp. They have talked about goals working with covid and how they all feel strongly that everyone should be vaccinated to attend camp. This has not been firmly decided but Linda suggests/encourages all of us to get the vaccine. If you have any questions, the medical staff is more than willing to talk with you. Their first and foremost concern is the safety of our campers.

**V. VAD Pop-up Store**- Todd shared that the on-line store features a line of apparel including t-shirts, sweatshirts, a jersey and maybe a hat. Someone donated the set-up fee (a little over \$100) and the artwork so there is no cost to VAD. The site is up for a limited time (deadline extended to June 15<sup>th</sup>). The store is not so much for raising money as it is for getting awareness out about VAD. This is the only money we have coming in right now (besides private donations).

#### **VI. Social Media (Facebook and Website):** Todd Nuppnau/Chris West

- A. VAD's Social Media Platforms- Right now there are 3 VAD platforms being used: the VAD Cares website, VAD's Facebook page and the VAD Family Cozy Corner. The question is what platforms should be used for what. It was discussed that VAD information (official business) should be included on both the webpage and Facebook page and that the Cozy Corner is intended for socializing (not necessarily for business issues). Each of the three platforms can refer to and link to the others to share information.
- B. VAD Cares website-
1. Updates- Todd will be working with Chris West to update the website and decide how we want to move forward with it. Brandon will be giving Todd some photos that are more recent than the ones currently displayed.
  2. Information- Chris West shared that some of the things that were most recently posted on the webpage are the upcoming board meeting dates, the pop-up store link and the flyer for the city chicken dinner. Minutes are also posted on the website but there haven't been any since before covid (Peach will be posting this and all subsequent meeting minutes going forward).
  3. Website Potential- Chris West said that there is more that we can do with our website.
    - a. He explained that we can set up a "members only" page, for VAD members, that has a password and protected pages so that not just anyone can access certain things.
    - b. Our monthly financials can also be posted.
    - c. It was agreed to not use an Open Forum type option for questions and discussion but instead use the "submit a question" option. For this when someone submits a question it is forwarded to one or multiple people (on the board) who is/are responsible for responding. We have this option but it seems to have fallen by the wayside. It was decided to delete what we have and set it up again.
- C. VAD's Facebook page- Chris West explained that Facebook would probably be the best platform to use for photos since photos take up a lot of space and we will be charged more if there are too many on the website but we can link from the website to Facebook so that the photos can be seen. Another good thing about posting the VAD photos on Facebook is that it would help with awareness about VAD. People will tag themselves and others in the photos and many people are familiar with Facebook and have an account.
- D. Discussions/Respect on Social Media- Linda explained that we, as representatives of VAD, need to be careful what we post/share on social media (even on our personal pages/sites) and to always keep things civil and respectful. We need to keep things positive and informational on our platforms. Some things that may be perceived as arguing or anything else negative should be handled privately and not for all to see. If there is some kind of conflict/disagreement please try to work it out with the individual and if that is not sufficient you can involve the board, if needed.

**VII. Closing:** A motion was made at 8:30ish by Linda Johnson and seconded by Todd Nuppau to close the meeting. All ayes. No one opposed.

The next ZOOM board meeting is scheduled for (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the week) Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00pm.