



# Rockville Public Library

*Enrich. Enlighten. Inform.*

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Vernon, CT 06066

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Jennifer Johnston-Marius

Director

## Regular Meeting

Town of Vernon Cultural District Advisory Board

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Rockville Public Library, 52 Union Street

Vernon, CT

## Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order - Jennifer Johnston-Marius called the meeting to order at 6::32.

Members present:	Tammy Eldredge	Leslie Campolongo
	Jim Sendrak	Liz Bologna
	Sandra Justin	Robin Castro

Members Missing:	Bree Maxwell	Ken Kaplan
	Sandra Justin	

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VERNON TOWN CLERK  
22 OCT -6 PM 12: 01

2. Approval of Minutes – Unanimous approval

3. Updates from Staff Liaison

- Shakespeare in the Park was a success – 250 participants for the three performances.
- Upcoming town events: Halloween Trunk or Treat in Henry Park on 10/27, Winterfest on 12/2
- Gene Pitney Concert in September has sadly been cancelled
- National Night Out Survey – reported by Jim and Liz that some good conversations were had. Jennifer shared report from survey: 14 people participated, many weren't aware of plans of a cultural district, many are interested in participating in a variety of cultural events.

4. Old Business:

a. Cultural Assets Map and Inventory

- We took a final look at the asset list, made the addition of Henry Park to the list
- All agreed that the list was complete and we could leave it for now
- Tammy updated that she had been working with Google Maps and Google Earth Maps trying to create a map for the district, but it wasn't exactly what she wanted
- Group discussed what should and shouldn't be on the list, focus should be on the top list of assets and green spaces. Don't need to list every item, would be too much
- Leslie recommended reaching out to Shaun Gately to discuss using a GIS map, as that may be easier to configure. Tammy said she would get in touch with him.

b. Commission Goals and Objectives



- Clarification was asked for what kind of focus the goals should have
- Jennifer gave some examples such as: increase economic growth, bring in additional art and cultural organizations/businesses, additional events, etc.
- The Feasibility study was brought up by Tammy – wondering what this was. Leslie and Jennifer explained the study and the ideas behind it.
- Members asked that they have access to the study, that it may help direct commission goals and objectives. Jennifer will send this to all members.
- A vision/mission statement should be formed, and then goals with that in mind could be created
- We got a start with “We will attract locally owned businesses and support economic growth, promoting community among local artists, businesses and citizens.”
- Tagline needs to be created – “We have a place for you” or something like that.
- We need to determine - What is our identity?
- Public Sculpture Walk was discussed, possible spring activity.
- An annual celebration of Gene Pitney was discussed – involve schools.
- Recommended that we put together a slide/video presentation that looks back at what the Downtown Rockville area was like, what it had to offer, and what we hope for the future. Jennifer will get in touch with Jean Luddy from Vernon Historical Society with hopes of working with them to create it. Decided that we could show it in the library, as part of the festivities in the building and downtown during WinterFest.

#### 5. New Business

##### a. CT Community Challenges Grant

- It was decided that we need to focus on our vision and goals, and that grant opportunities can wait until we are better established.

#### 4. Adjournment – 8:02 pm

Next meeting : September 27th – 6:30 – Rockville Library

Signed,



Jennifer Johnston-Marius

