

## HRC Meeting

**Participants:** Roxanne Mendez-Johnson, Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Kevin Miller, Maggie Clifton, Chief Balon, Patrick Lyp, John Albers, Willow Walsh, Judy Neville, and Sam Burow-Flak

**Date:** April 28, 2020

**Motion to approve minutes from February meeting passed.**

**Updates and Announcements from the Chair.**

**President Mendez-Johnson** reported that she received an official response from the City concerning funding for the Cultural Grant program for 2020. Due to Covid-19 many things are on hold including grants, programs, and other sorts of funding. She asked member, **Patrick Lyp** if he had any further information to share on behalf of the City.

**Patrick Lyp**- Generally speaking in terms of City finances, Valparaiso stands pretty strong. Unfortunately, there are a ton of unknowns. The bulk of City financial resources come from real estate taxes. The Governor provided a three month extension for the payment of real estate taxes without penalty. No one knows what the impact of that decision will be tax collection rates. We don't know if taxes will be paid by property owners, whose taxes aren't paid directly through escrow. Our City Clerk has been talking to the County Auditor and Treasurer and we really have no idea as to what to expect. The Mayor as well as City Administrator have been clear from City Staff perspective -- any expense over \$500 has to be approved by the City Administrator and the Mayor. All discretionary spending has been put on hold.

**Hannah Hammond-Hagman**- Thank you for that update. Hannah was receiving questions from potential 2020 grantees. It is not surprising that in times like this there is re-evaluation on spending. Like small businesses, arts and cultural institutions have been hit extremely hard and these organizations will be an important player in rebuilding. She is hopeful that this grant/ program will continue.

**Chief Balon**- Contact Assistance Referral Program (C.A.R.E . Program) – Program was designed to help Seniors and others in need during extreme hot and cold weather. With Covid-19. VPD has decided to expand it. If someone wants to sign up or sign someone else up in need, all they have to do is call VPD during business hours at 219-462-2135. They will need some preliminary information to get things going and our school resource officers that are not in the school right now run the program. They will contact the person approximately three times a week. They will give them advice, direction, and resources they need. They are a source for information. For example, if someone needs prescription pick up or grocery pick up, they have a list of contact numbers that they can help facilitate that need. They are also there to make contact with the person to make sure they are okay.

This information is on Valparaiso Police Department's Facebook and Instagram. Chief Balon will try to share that information to Roxanne or he will have something drawn up so she can get the word out about this program.

**Sam Burow-Flak** (VHS Senior of Class 2020)- This has been very disappointing for Seniors and other high school students. Prom and spring sports were cancelled. The seniors are having an online graduation. There also a lot of great things people in the community have been honoring this current Seniors. There are several social media pages and groups recognizing graduating seniors. There is an Instagram account called VHS class of 2020 which posts Seniors and their graduation plans, where they are going to college or where they have committed to work. They appreciate the efforts of the teachers and community to honor the Seniors.

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VHS Hope Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjVEs0Vytq4&feature=youtu.be>

Congratulations to Sam who is going to Purdue University this coming fall.

**John Albers**- Wants to include Valparaiso High School Unified Sports in the next in person meeting. They received an award this last spring for diversity and inclusion from the urban league of NWI. Unfortunately, the luncheon in which the award was to be presented was cancelled. John would like to suggest whenever the next in person meeting is, that we offer to them that we would use our meeting as a means to highlight this award. Inviting press and possible members of the urban league to come and make some kind of presentation.

**No action items.**

**[Meeting Adjourned]**