

NVPS Board Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Jamie Kiechlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Dunn Loring Firehouse.

Members in attendance were:

Alan Goldstein	Georgette Grossman	Paula Neumann
Alan Tolk	Ginger Werz-Petricka	Ron Taylor
Beth Morris	Jamie Kiechlin	Sam Schaen
Bill Millhouser	Joy Brathwaite	Sandi Croan
Bob Friedman	Judy Graham	Steve Glintz
Brian Payne	Kevin Egan	Tom Brett
Chris Langford	Melanie Marts	Tom Pratuch
Fran Bastress	Mike Whalen	Willa Friedman
		Willa Siegel

Attendees introduced themselves and named their NVPS position for the upcoming club year.

Jamie reviewed the meeting agenda, which included the following: status reports from new board and volunteers, discussion and approval of changes to the *Board Members Handbook*, other agenda items, and individual discussions between old and new board/volunteers.

Jamie then asked participants for issues they wanted to raise. He raised the issue of email privacy as it relates to NVPS's relationship with Nature Visions. NVPS is the only participating club unwilling to share participants' emails, which complicates matters for Nature Visions staff.

Willa Siegel suggested having name tags of a third color for people who have been with the club less than a year, which would help us to identify and be more welcoming to newcomers.

Jamie asked board members to report on areas for which they have responsibility in the upcoming club year. He requested that efforts be made for coordination between Programs, Field Trips, Competition, etc., in order to have some congruency between the various offerings.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Programs: Willa Siegel

- September 1 - Erika Nizbourski: Portraits
- October 6 - Corey Hilz: Creativity
- November 3 - Nikhil Bahl: The Power of Simplicity & Expression
- December 1 - Tim Cooper: HDR
- January 5 - Alex Moody: Photographing the Northwest
- February 2 - Mitchell Layton: Sports Photography, including Children's Sports
- March 1 - David Luria: Architecture
- April 5 - TBA
- May 3 - Image Design, using principles of design to create more effective images

Operations: Alan Tolk

Alan had no report. He said he will be working with the previous VP of Operations, Kevin Egan.

Competition: Kevin Eagan and Tami Stieger

The following judges have been lined up thus far:

- September 15 - Don Rosenberger
- October 20 - Dave Blecman (theme: Portraiture)

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- November 17 - Denise Silva
- March 15 - Judge TBD (theme: Creativity)
- May 17 - Judge TBD (theme: Architecture)
- April 19 – Judge TBD (theme : Oldies Night)

Treasurer: Tom Brett

Northern Virginia Photographic Society [as of 3 August 2015]

Treasurer's Report for Club Year 2014-2015

Club Year Category	14/15 Actual	15/16 Budget	12/13 Actual	13/14 Budget	13/14 Actual	14/15 Budget	14/15 Actual
Expenses							
Facility (DLFD)	4,725	5,265	5,265	5,265	4,590	5,265	4,725
Equip Replacement	0	0	42	0	169	0	0
Insurance	400	500	250	250	400	400	400
Competitions							
Honorarium	450	500	500	500	400	500	450
Meals	382	350	359	350	281	350	382
Monthly Ribbons*	0	450	455	0	0	0	0
EOY Ribbons, Awards	598	700	572	700	597	700	598
Programs							
Honorarium	350	450	450	450	400	450	400
Meals	264	350	417	350	318	350	264
PSA Membership	0	85	45	45	85	45	0
Gifts (Spudz)*	0	0	1,191	0	0	0	0
EOY Banquet Subsidy**	376	850	836	850	890	850	376
Exhibits	0	250	0	250	0	250	0
Special Event ****	332	300	0	0	0	0	332
Educ.& Tng	0	250	100	250	150	250	0
Field Trips	0	150	0	150	0	150	0
WEB & host server***	180	200	0	225	0	200	180
FotoFax	0	40	0	40	0	40	0
Membership & Misc	160	250	284	250	221	250	M89/S71
TOTAL Expenses	8,217	10,940	10,766	9,925	8,501	10,050	\$8,267
Income							
Dues	9,624		8,537		9,905		9624
Spudz / Coffee	230/61		440		170		230 / 61
Total Income	9,915		8,977		10,075		9,915

*3Yrs Monthly Ribbons/Gifts

**EOY Banquet '15- Income: \$3,531; Hotel Meals/Fees: \$3,907 = \$376 Subsidy

***2 years WEB deal

**** NVPS 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Current Bank Balance [3 Aug. 2015]: \$10,270

[Major Equipment Replaced 2011-12: \$3,695]

Individual dues: \$45.00; Family dues: \$65.00

Tom explained his Treasurer's Report:

- The largest expense each year is meeting-hall rent, given that it costs 50 -55 percent of budget to rent the firehouse. We pay \$135 for each meeting.
- Equipment Replacement is zero, because we don't know what major items may break. The last big replacement was four years ago for the laptop and digital projector at \$3,700.

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- Insurance will go up \$100 this year, but it covers people at meetings as well as on field trips.
- Meals are for taking Program speakers and Competition judges to dinner prior to meetings..
- 96 people signed up for this year's EOY Banquet, which is about average for attendance. Due to the good venue, income from the banquet was \$100 more, the meal fee was \$420 less, and the club's subsidy was \$470 less than in 2014, which Tom believes will be about the same next year if we use the Waterford again.
- Re Special Event category: The NVPS 50th Anniversary celebration cost \$330, but this didn't increase expenses, because it replaced what would have been spent on meals and honorariums for two Program speakers and one Competition judge. So it was a breakeven situation.
- Re the Membership/Miscellaneous line item, part of that involved \$90 for nametags and \$70 for new batteries.
- Re Monthly Competition Ribbons: We order approximately a three-year supply. The VPs for Competition, Tami and Kevin, should inventory ribbons to determine when to reorder.
- Given the club's current income, we are in good shape financially.

Secretary/Historian: Fran Bastress

Fran's biggest responsibilities are taking minutes at board meetings, updating the Board Members Handbook, and tracking attendance at NVPS meetings. Fran thanked board members for responding promptly with revisions to their position descriptions in the handbook, which she is currently updating. Given her upcoming vacation, she requested they do the same when she circulates the meeting minutes. She spoke of her appreciation for the continuing assistance provided by her predecessor in the job, Georgette. Beth volunteered to count attendance at the 9/1 meeting in Fran's absence.

Georgette spoke about the board handbook's position descriptions, stressing they should be written with a focus on *how to do the job*, rather than what is written in the description. With this approach, things wouldn't be as likely to fall through the cracks, and board members would be less likely to blame others. Sandi responded that the handbook is only a guide, and position holders typically do their jobs their own way.

Beth spoke about the rules of competition and how some are rather obscure and possibly out of date. In light of an incident during the past year, she suggested the rules be re-evaluated and perhaps changed. Sandi said the timing is such that this can't happen this year, and members would have to vote on changes.

Education & Training: Ginger Werz-Petricka and Chris Langford

Ginger said E & T will be offering programs that will complement the competitions, and she reviewed many of the programs she and Chris had lined up.

- September 8: Preparing Your Images for Competition, Digital and Matting
- September 29: Anonymous Critique with Sandi Croan
- October 1: Portraiture and Lighting with Chris Langford, includes a 15 min intro to the Portfolio Artist Statement by Brian Zwit
- November 10: Post Processing Tips, several How-To stations with instruction on various software
- December 8: Anonymous Critique
- January 12: Being Creative with Software, several How-To stations with instruction on creative processes with different types of software

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- February 9: Creative Workshop, multiple stations for hands-on photography opportunities
- March 8: Camera Basics, Equipment and Function
- March 29: Preliminary Portfolio Review
- April 12: Photography as a Business
- May 10: Final Portfolio Review with Brian Zwit
- May 31: Swap Meet

Ginger spoke of the need for volunteers to assist with three of the upcoming E & T meetings, and Chris followed this up with an appeal through the NVPS Facebook page. They hope that members skilled in post-processing techniques will help with the November meeting, and those skilled in various types of photo-related software will assist with the January meeting. For the February meeting, they're looking for volunteers knowledgeable in water color abstract and freezing water with speedlites, product photography, portraiture, food photography, macro, and more.

Sandi suggested hiring Brian Zwit at a discounted price to teach Lightroom to a group of NVPS members. Board members were enthusiastic about this idea.

Bob talked about the self-improvement field trips he and Willa (Friedman) plan to lead, starting in September. There has been a big response, with 25 people currently signed up and expressions of interest from others. Participants need books and, although Freeman Patterson has run out of copies, they are available through Amazon.

Field Trips: Bill Millhouser and Alan Goldstein

Bill reported that they have many ideas and have been scouting out possibilities. Although they had announced it to the membership, they've decided against Ginter Gardens in Richmond due to the dearth of possibilities there. They've replaced it with downtown Fredericksburg, and will send out a blast email to that effect. For October, they've selected Bedford County, PA.

A discussion ensued between Ginger, Alan, and Sandi about the value of Richmond for a future field trip. Ginger recommended Virginia House and Agecroft Hall, two Richmond homes with gardens.

Sam initiated a discussion on how to minimize the number of club-related communications circulating via blast emails, website, FotoFax, and Facebook. Although nothing was settled, it was suggested that a webpage link could be included in blast emails. Someone noted that not all members participate in the NVPS Facebook.

Member's Gallery: Ron Taylor

Ron announced that he had members lined up for the entire year:

Confirmed Gallery Date	Digital	Print
September 22	Judy McGuire	Curtis Gibbens
October 27	Chris Langford	Bob and Willa Friedman
November 24	Dennis Govoni	Granger Benson
January 26	Polly Terriberry	Bill Corbett
February 23	Rick French	Andrew Savino

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March 22	Fred Siskind	Mike Whalen
April 26	Alan Goldstein	John Singley
May 24	Cesar Sharper	Yvonne Jarrett

Members Forum: Beth Morris

Sandi Croan will be the speaker in September. Joe Miller is on the Forum schedule as well. According to Jamie, Joe was to be on the Programs schedule, but was switched to Forum due to his NVPS membership and regular attendance at meetings.

Membership: Judy Graham, Joy Brathwaite, and Paula Neumann

Judy is working on a form and a brochure related to membership, as well as writing an article for FotoFax. She had questions related to revisions to the Board Handbook, most of which pertained to the database.

Joy spoke about the database, and said there was some confusion last year regarding who was responsible for reconciling the membership list with who actually attended meetings. Regarding the wording in the Board Handbook, she hopes to clarify who is responsible for updating the list.

Sam said there are two different ways data comes in: through PayPal, and through cash or check.

Beth discussed how she handled things as membership coordinator, and Sam weighed in on the discussion.

Joy shared that she liked Beth's approach, because it would be the easiest way to track the data.

A discussion ensued about how to deal with the problem of individuals just dropping off checks and going off without providing contact information. Joy suggested having one or two volunteers available at the first couple September meetings for collecting dues and directing members in completing forms with their contact information. This approach would free up Membership to concentrate on welcoming attendees.

Georgette and others discussed the type of data that's acceptable to collect on members, which may be limited to names, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Brian Payne countered that we already have considerable information on members but others said such data becomes out of date; therefore, efforts toward collecting contact information would not be redundant.

Tom Brett suggested that the best approach would be to have separate forms for *new* and *renewal* members available at meetings, rather than online. He volunteered to help Membership at meetings with collecting checks and forms.

Jamie raised the issue of how to make new members feel welcome.

Willa Siegel brought the discussion back to her recommendation of having nametags of a third color for individuals in the club less than a year.

Sandi talked about the value of a welcome committee, which was successful in the past. She suggested we consider resurrecting it.

Sandi also suggested sending out get well and sympathy cards. Beth recommended that Membership consider her approach while serving in that role: keep three each of such cards on hand at meetings in case occasions for these arose.

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Following the meeting, Judy sent the following update to Fran for inclusion in the minutes:

- Membership is going to take ownership of updating the membership database as new members join and current members renew their memberships. In the past this responsibility has been distributed across three functions. Consolidating it under Membership will assure timely and accurate updates of the database.
- Two articles have been submitted for publishing in the first issue of FotoFax. The first article is about renewing membership and the second is a call for volunteers to join the Welcome Committee.
- The NVPS membership application has been updated and is available on the NVPS website. It is now an online fillable pdf form.
- Membership is creating an abbreviated membership application for existing members renewing at club meetings. This form will be used if the member is not making any changes to his/her contact information or adding/removing family members.
- Willa Siegel suggested we have a different color name tag for members in their first year. Membership will purchase and have them available.
- The NVPS brochure has been updated with new art on the front cover. Copies will be printed prior to the start of the new club year. An email has been sent to Roger Lancaster inquiring how many copies are needed for Nature Visions.
- Membership will purchase and have on hand a small supply of sympathy and get well cards.

Newsletter/NVAAC Rep: Alan Goldstein

Alan asked that board members send him activities for the year that will be of importance to the membership, and he will incorporate them into FotoFax. Send to editor@NVPS.org in Word or in a format with which he can easily work. He stressed that pictures for incorporation into an article need to be sent separately, rather than included with text. Deadlines for submission are the Fridays after Competition night each month.

A long discussion ensued between Willa Siegel, Alan, and Sam regarding the timing of information for publications. Alan pointed out that the meeting topics are published in FotoFax nearly a year in advance, and others volunteered that they are listed on the website as well. However, there was no resolution to the discussion, and Jamie requested that it be continued outside of the board meeting.

Jamie asked Alan if NVPS continues to have a relationship with NVACC. The response was that it is used for getting for judges and speakers.

Website: Sam Schaen, Steve Glintz, Scott Musson

Sam Schaen reported that Steve Glintz has joined Scott Musson and Sam on the web team. Jamie mentioned that Sam is writing a web administrator manual which provides detailed procedures. It will be very helpful to future web managers. A draft of the manual has been posted in the board member section of the NVPS website and will be updated in the coming months.

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Exhibits (other than Nature Visions): Melanie Marts

Melanie reported that Willa Friedman has three exhibits scheduled during the club year:

- January 2016 – Frame Factory, Vienna
- June 2016 – Washington School of Photography, Rockville
- January 2017 – Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Reston

Melanie is working on getting an exhibit in the spring at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

GENERAL

Jamie again raised the issue of NVPS being the only club in the area that doesn't share members email addresses with Nature Visions. This is something our Nature Visions rep, Roger Lancaster, wants. There was no discussion on this. Jamie will schedule a separate Board mini-meeting to discuss an alternative process.

Kevin Egan proposed starting meetings on competition nights at 7:00 pm versus 7:30 pm, due to the length of the process. It was suggested that if this was instituted, prints could be evaluated after the digital segment. In this case, judges would not have the opportunity to evaluate prints prior to the meeting. It was pointed out that Jeff Hancock may not be available by 7:00 pm. Kevin made a motion to bring up this proposal for a vote at the first meeting in September. Sandi seconded the motion. Fifteen board members voted in favor of the motion, and three voted against it.

Sam recommended streamlining the first part of the evening when we have competitions.

Ginger raised the issue of the club's snow policy, and suggested we cancel meetings when the federal government closes, rather than when the Fairfax County public schools close. Board members offered reasons why this wouldn't work, including the fact that the firehouse parking lot may not be shoveled if the Fairfax County schools were closed. The subject was dropped.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Bastress
NVPS Secretary/Historian