

VPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of June 9, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:-President Martin Fish called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm at Thoreau Middle School. Those in attendance were Rick Barnard, Liz Bumgarner, Mike Cochran, Sharon Connolly, Patricia Deege, Martin Fish, Mary Jane Fish, Laura Howell, Carol Huddleston, Phil Kronenberg,, Renee Loeffler, Loma Mier, John Naman, Sue Phillips, Dennis Tarnay, and Warren Standley

MINUTES: The Actions from the Minutes of May 12 were reviewed and noted completed. Final paperwork for incorporation, and insurance coverage, is still pending. Mary Jane moved, and John Naman seconded, to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2010. Minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Recognition for Joe Miller

Joe is still in the hospital; plans for presentation of the plaque from VPS are therefore on hold awaiting further developments

Themes for 2010

Dates and subjects for theme nights were discussed and agreed upon; details are as follows:

1. Nov. 2010 Water
2. Feb. 2011 Patterns
3. April 2011 Trains, planes and automobiles

ACTIONS:

1. **Liz** will communicate this information to the general membership
2. **Directors for Judges, Speakers and Forum Committee** will endeavor to coordinate their invitees to compliment these themes with their programs and/or expertise.
3. **David** will post the theme subjects and dates on the VPS website

Forums

No response received from the member originally suggested for Forum Committee Chair.

John Naman and Liz Bumgarner agreed to coordinate this program (possibly with assistance from other members).

Ideas needed for future forums; subject can be "technical issues."

Suggested: -- program on print matting for September 2010, in preparation for Nature Visions exhibit in November. Liz requested information on how to matt, and resources for materials; useful to members in addition to attending matting session.

Appropriate speaker would be helpful on theme subjects.

Club members presenting at forums could coordinate their subject and commentary to be helpful for upcoming theme night..

Forum could be follow up to speaker night, perhaps with speaker returning to critique results.

Liz requested information on how to matt; useful to members in addition to attending matting session.

ACTIONS:

1. Compile and publish a list of proposed forums;
David - add to website

2. Publish instructions and resources for matting prints (**Patricia** will update and circulate existing instruction sheet)

Legal Questions

1. Rick reiterated need for protection against liabilities, legal fees, etc. VPS should incorporate as a non-profit entity. Liz is still awaiting information from lawyer. Deadline for this -- September.
Need for liability insurance for VPS. Deadline suggested October. Cost not necessarily very high; suggestion: dues could be raised to help cover this expense. (**ACTION ???**)
2. Nature Visions has insurance to cover incidents during that exhibit.
3. Waiver of liability needed for field trip participants. Suggestions for covering this issue:
Home owners insurance (provided no remuneration to member involved)
Form to be signed by participant before each field trip
Form to be signed once a year to cover all subsequent field trips for that year
Waiver included in sign-up sheet for field trip
Waiver included in membership form

Other clubs can be polled for their information on this issue

Rick moved and John seconded a motion to establish waivers of liability—deadline September. Martin moved for a vote; acceptance unanimous.

ACTION:

1. **Liz** - Finalize incorporation issue, a.s.a.p.
2. **Field Trip Committee** Finalize the issue of liabilities waiver and have paperwork available to cover all future field trips
3. **Warren** will request form used by Bill Kyburz.
4. (**???**) Liability insurance

NEW BUSINESS

Speaker Program

Phil and Renee circulated “planning issues” (copy attached).

Responses to numbered items:

2. Phil requested recognition of Renee as Co-Director in club paperwork. Discussion held on possible change in By-Laws to incorporate this; conclusion: Renee would be listed as appointed co-chair with no board vote. No change in By-Laws required for this.
3. A full list of speakers should be assembled as soon as possible
4. Speakers from last year to be used if others are not available; new speakers/subjects preferable.
7. A survey by membership of each speaker deemed very helpful.
8. Joe Miller award -- discussed above.

Dates for Initiating Board Selection for Elections

Patricia requested changing dates quoted in Article VIII of the By-Laws; -- May/June is TOO LATE for presentation of slate.

Suggested: form committee in February, announce slate in late March/early April with vote late April/early May AT THE LATEST.

ACTION; To be discussed by new board.

PSA Competition – Travel Section

Dennis raised PSA competition issue;

Switch categories??

No response received so far to membership survey on this.

Conclusion: VPS will continue to compete in Travel section. Next competition – September. An article about PSA for Focal Points would be helpful to members who are new or have never competed in this competition.

ACTION:

1. **Dennis** -- announce, A.S.A.P. via bulk e.mail, date of competition and solicit entries; send info. to David for posting on website. Write article on PSA for Focal Points
2. **Dennis** -- canvas membership, (annual dinner, picnic) for opinions on change of category.
3. **David** -- post information on website.
4. **Mike** -- announce competition in summer newsletter (July)

Budget Expenses for Each Committee

Mary Jane reminded the board about this issue;

Proposed expenses for Nature Visions: a digital frame for presenting ALL VPS entries into the competition, in addition to those accepted and displayed. Cost of frame estimated \$150.

Discussion: Subsequent use of equipment to justify cost—possible use in future forums.

Decision: Action depends on response from other Alliance Clubs and availability of VPS funds.

Nature Visions

VPS members need more information from Nature Visions; e.g., set up of prints, timing of entries, presentation of entries – digital or print?

ACTION; **Mary Jane** will distribute information as soon as it becomes available

Treasurer's Report - Balance as of 6/9/2010

Assets	\$4,082.55
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Liabilities	None
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Details available from Treasurer (Sharon Connolly, upon request)

Next Board meeting – September 8, 2010

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30.

Attachment: Planning Issues for Speaker Programs

Phil Kronenberg
Renee Loeffler

- 1) Thanks to Rick Barnard for passing on much information and insights in several waves of email!
- 2) Request Board approval of listing Renee Loeffler as Co-Director for Programs in our official listing of Board Members and Officers.
- 3) Our summer goal: Secure speakers for September-December by end of August.
- 4) Solicit suggestions from Board at 9 June meeting regarding topics and speakers. Also, should we avoid using speakers from last year?
- 5) Procedures for obtaining speakers:
 - a) Initial Process: Have one initial face-to-face meeting with John Naman and the Forums Director to work out basic approaches and priorities—to be followed up by teleconference, etc. as needed.
 - b) Long-term Process:
 - i) Initial identification by Phil & Renee of possible speakers—based on our search and input from interested VPS members who know the community of professional photographers.
 - ii) Check with small informal advisory group (consisting of interested members of the Board and other VPS members who offer to help and who know the community of professional photographers) to see if there are any negatives about the people we are considering.
 - iii) Initiate contact with potential speakers to assess availability and interest .
 - iv) Extend an invitation to speak and close the deal.
- 6) Solicit suggestions for topics and photographers from VPS members:
 - a) We will “Work the members” at the Annual Dinner for suggestions. We will send out an email before the Annual Dinner asking all VPS members to think about their interests and suggestions for speakers.
 - b) Long-term activity: Solicit member interests in speakers and topics during the year.
- 7) Survey VPS members after each speaker presentation to assess member evaluations: We will do this by an email sent to the general VPS membership inviting those who attended the session to comment very briefly on:
 - a) Should VPS invite the speaker back again?
 - b) What were the strengths of the speaker?
 - c) What were weaknesses of the speaker?
 - d) What other topics or issues should the speaker address next time?
 - e) Other feedback ????
- 8) We will review speakers for past 3-4 years from VPS and other clubs as possible candidates. Also, we will attempt to reach out to new people and new themes.
- 9) How will we handle the Joe Miller honors event for Sept? Who invites?, Who organizes ceremonies?, Who presides over the award ceremony? Before/after Joe gives his speech?
- 10) How should we be prepared to handle last-minute no-shows or cancellations?