

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
The Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association, Inc.  
Held at the River Club and *via* Zoom on February 13, 2023**

**Board Members in attendance:**

Roger Effron - President  
Fred Baughman – VP & Treasurer  
Mark Faford (sl. delayed due to previous meeting)  
Sharon George  
John Manoush  
Steve Hefler  
Taras Kowalczyn

**Guests present:** There were approx. 4 Venetian residents attending in person and 11 joining *via* Zoom.

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**Call to order:** Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 3:45pm. A new initiative was introduced with a ½ hour conversation period prior to the meeting to encourage informal resident input. These may be one-on-one conversations or in groups, with no particular agenda and will not be recorded or reflected in the minutes.

**Secretary's report:** The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.

**Public comment:** Roger Effron invited guests to make comments. POA President Steve Thomaston took the opportunity to thank the CA for its cooperation and support, particularly for the traffic study funding, and expressed his hope and support for a continued cooperation. No other public comments.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fred Baughman presented and discussed reports showing profit and loss through 2/11, stressing the significant increase in insurance costs, which, at \$8,244 in 2022, were roughly 1/3 of income. He initiated some discussion of where we could cut costs, but it does not appear there is any low hanging fruit. Our “operating cash” remains in good shape at \$111K total with \$36,400 available and the rest reserved for contingencies. Fred also presented a proposed 2023 budget. There was discussion over possible cuts to *Parcels* printing costs and insurance coverage as well as increasing dues. We can cover costs out of operating cash in the short term but Fred recommends we try hard to bring income and expenses into line for the longer term. No firm decisions were made. John Manoush asked why the CA’s half of the traffic study was not shown on any of the reports. Fred replied that it is covered out of the operating cash but that he will attempt to show it in a future report.

**Membership:** Sharon George said membership trends overall continue to be favorable. She reported that the attempt to solve the problem of rejection of our communications by some “@gmail” users would not be solved by a new domain as had been hoped, so there is currently no solution. John Manoush suggested an inexpensive though incomplete solution of contacting users and appeal for them to ensure that the CA was identified as a safe sender on their devices; however, we did not discuss how to contact the very users whose systems are rejecting our emails.

**External Affairs:** Mark Faford read Tom Jones' report in Tom's absence. There are no new developments in NE Venice beyond the known Milano PUD and Laurel Rd widening. Tom attends the Mirasol Development neighborhood meetings and reported that the group recently questioned the developer regarding a planned tire and auto center fitting into a "commercial" designated area. Tom advised that increased traffic at Knights Trail and Laurel will likely be an area of growing concern as these developments progress.

**Board Retreat:** John Manoush and Taras Kowalczyn updated the board on the retreat planning. Thanks to an appeal in the Feb. *Parcels*, we had three Venetians volunteer to facilitate the meeting. John interviewed all three by phone and found all qualified and experienced, and he will select one in a day or two. John and Taras will then work with our facilitator and the rest of the board to develop an agenda and other planning details. Taras has been searching for a date and time and very shortly after this meeting announced the choice of March 9 from noon to 4. Roger Effron said he will help us find a venue.

**Website:** Mark Faford read Michelle Trent's website progress report, and Augustana College is in the final stages of site design. Sharon is training to be available for helping manage and maintain the Wall of Something.

**Seminars and Events:** Shredfest will take place tomorrow, Feb. 14, and we expect a sizeable crowd but have plenty of volunteers. We will use the opportunity to pass out the "Mark Your Calendars" postcards Roger recently had printed, showing 5 events up through April 17. There were a number of enthusiastic reviews of the Feb. 7 CPR training. In addition to the residents who signed up, the staffs of the River and Golf clubs were trained. Two more sessions will take place on March 2. Steve Hefler recommended Dr. Glenn's April 3 presentation on cognitive decline.

**Annual CA Meeting:** Mark Faford read Tom Jones' report on this meeting, which is planned for April 10. We will have our regular board meeting at 3:30pm followed by the annual meeting at 5pm. Election of board members and officers will take place right after the annual meeting, so we could be engaged until 6:15pm or so. The 5 board members who have terms expiring in 2023 are:

- Fred Baughman
- Tom Jones
- Michelle Trent
- Mark Faford
- Sharon George

**Laurel Road Widening:** Roger Effron stated there are no new developments beyond what was reported in the February *Parcels*. Roger and Steve Hefler opined that construction could begin in late 2023.

**Commercial Development:** No new activity to report. The POA and NVNA are now taking the lead on opposition to the development, while the CA will assist as needed. The POA recently voted to provide up to \$10,000 to share the cost of attorney Dan Lobeck, with a community vote required to exceed that amount.

**Town Hall meeting:** A working group consisting of Roger Effron, Steve Hefler, Tom Jones and Mark Faford has everything prepared for the March 20 meeting. Informational tables will be staffed by the POA (Ray Juan), CDD (Keith Livermore), and the HRT (Fred Baughman). A special alert message will go out to the community as a reminder.

**Community Betterment - Benches:** Roger Efron had recently proposed the placement of a new bench near the main entrance, most likely overlooking the pond with a fountain. All were agreeable but Fred suggested we hold off on this expenditure until we more fully consider our strained budget. John Manoush suggested moving an existing bench to a new location. The existing bench is currently along Pesaro Dr. near the power lines and has no shade, due to the loss of oak trees after Hurricane Ian. Following this meeting, Roger decided contact the CDD to suggest moving the existing bench, which is their property.

**Board member comments:** John Manoush restated his opinion that the CA's traffic study contribution of approx. \$22,000 should appear on our financial statements. Mark Faford noted that our liability insurer for the Town Hall meeting has stated the policy will expire, but Fred was certain we are paid up. They will contact the carrier to ensure our payment has been credited.

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting will be held on March 13 at 3:45pm at the River Club. Members are encouraged to arrive at 3:15 for informal conversations with attendees.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5pm.

*Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, acting Secretary*