

**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 March 13, 2023**

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Effron - President
Fred Baughman – VP & Treasurer
Tom Jones – secretary
Michelle Trent
Mark Faford
Sharon George
John Manoush
Steve Hefler
Taras Kowalczyn

Guests present: There were approx. 2 Venetian residents attending in person and 6 joining *via Zoom*.

Call to order: Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 3:45pm.

Secretary's report: The minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved with a correction to the amount of operating cash in our account to \$111,000.

Public comment: There was a comment on the location of an eagle's nest in the area northeast of VGRC property. The POA property manager clarified that the POA is the owner of the perimeter road.

Treasurer's Report: Fred Baughman reported that our operating cash is \$111,437, and we are running a surplus of \$10,541 so far this year. He presented the budget for 2023 with a balance of income and expenses of \$24,226. Our insurance has increased about \$1,600 over 2022, which necessitated some reductions in other categories. The budget was approved by unanimous vote. There was a discussion on membership reporting and how it affects the YTD and future budgets. Fred said that the \$22,000 expense for our share of the POA traffic study will show up as a special project expense.

Membership: Sharon George said our membership is at 891, which is about 65% of the community. She's continuing to try to get the names and contact data of new residents, with information from the River Club or by word of mouth. She has also sent a list of non-members and non-renewals to the board for their contacting assistance. A committee was formed of Sharon, Fred Baughman and Taras Kowalczyn to work to clean up our membership records.

External Affairs: Tom Jones reported on the commercial development in the Mirasol Town Center (corner of Laurel Road and Knights Trail). There are 9 commercial properties, with the 4 on the west end to be occupied by a Mobil/7-11, Wendys, Dunkin, and a tire & auto center. On the far eastern lot, a dermatology center will be located.

Board Retreat: Roger Effron complimented all board members on a successful retreat last Thursday. He thanked John and Taras for organizing it and Maryann McCreedy for being the facilitator. There were 4 working groups formed: communication, external affairs, membership, and finance.

Website: Michelle Trent said the website redesign is wrapping up this week and she will send notification to board members to test it. It will hopefully go “live” in a week or so, with a mention at the Town Hall meeting.

Seminars and Events: Mark Faford and Michelle Trent reported on the two remaining seminars this season: April 3 – reversing cognitive decline; April 17 – active shooter prep with Venice Police Dept.

Town Hall meeting: Roger Effron and Mark Faford said that plans for the Town Hall meeting are set with the Laurel Nokomis School staff. Setup starts at 4:30 and the meeting begins at 5:30

Annual CA Meeting: Tom Jones reported that the meeting is scheduled for April 10 with the board meeting at 3:30pm, the annual meeting at 5pm, and a short board meeting to elect officers at 6pm. There was consensus that the meeting announcement should include a request for candidates for the open board seats. The nominating committee of John Manoush, Taras Kowalczyn, and Steve Hefler will assemble the slate for the election.

Laurel Road Widening: Roger Effron stated that the project is proceeding with no recent meetings with Pat Neal. He said that Neal has contacted state officials about funding for the road. Depending on the results of the traffic study, which may be 2-3 more weeks, the POA and CA could make an appeal to the County on the traffic light at our entrance.

Commercial Development: Roger Effron said the Planning Commission will continue the hearing on the Milano PUD amendment at its meeting on March 21.

Community Betterment - Benches: Roger Effron said a suggestion was made to move the bench on Pesaro Drive, which has lost its shade trees, to a spot near the lake with the fountain at the entrance. The CDD has agreed and is handling the move.

New Business: Steve Hefler noted that the River Club newsletters don’t list our board meeting dates, so he’ll contact the communications person to ask that our dates be included. Mark Faford recommended that we make a donation to the Venice Fire Dept. benevolent fund as a “thank you” for their CPR and AED training sessions at VGRC. A \$500 donation was suggested and it was unanimously approved.

Board member comments: Michelle Trent recommended a short video on “how to use The Wall” be included on the website. Taras Kowalczyn asked how the CA can be part of the new resident orientation sessions done by the POA.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on April 10 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones, Secretary