

**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 July 10, 2023**

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Effron – President
Fred Baughman – VP & Treasurer
Mark Faford
John Manoush
Steve Hefler
Joe Browne
Taras Kowalczyn (via ZOOM)

Guests present: There were 4 Venetian residents attending in person and 2-4 joining *via* Zoom.

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

Secretary's report: The minutes of the June 12 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public comment: None

Treasurer's Report: Fred Baughman had previously distributed reports showing income to date of \$23,116 and net income of \$4,918 (relative to budget) as of July 8. We have \$106,330 cash with nearly \$29,000 of that considered available for current use. Fred did not foresee any immediate problems with finances, but felt that we needed to look longer term at whether dues should be increased to keep pace with costs.

External Affairs: In Tom's absence there was no dedicated report on this topic.

Note: Information in brackets [] occurred after this meeting and was added for clarity of the topic.

Commercial Application (shopping ctr): Roger provided a summary of the POA meeting that took place this same morning. Roger, Sharon, Joe and John attended in person. The POA voted 3-2 to have Marshall Happer represent them at the City Council meeting on July 11 in order to present a draft ordinance he had prepared. The draft contained a long list of requirements for the shopping center to abide by as well as the creation of an advisory board that would include residents of all surrounding communities. *[At the July 11 City Council meeting, the Council allowed Mr. Happer 5 minutes to speak and his proposals were rejected]*. There was a motion to pursue an appeal as well, but after much discussion the board decided to have another special meeting on July 13 to take up that question. The type of appeal proposed by Happer is called a *Writ of Certiorari*. There is debate among residents as to whether this is wanted, with some feeling strongly that we should fight on while others feel it was a good effort but now we should switch to collaboration to try and mitigate some negative impacts of the center through involvement in the site planning *[At the special meeting on 7/13 the POA voted 3-2 NOT to pursue an appeal of any type, and also voted 3-2 NOT to do another survey on this topic]*.

Laurel Rd. widening: This was not discussed at the POA meeting except in relation to the shopping ctr, but it is largely a separate topic. It is moving ahead with no obstacles we are aware of. Our only concern is the desire for a traffic light at Veneto, something that has already been rejected by the County but for which we continue to press via appeal. Such an appeal requires the support of Neal Communities (contractor for the road work) but the POA has thus far refused to support this effort under the belief that this would favor or support the shopping center. A traffic study (Patel) has been going on since Feb. but we have not yet seen a final report. The POA has verbally summarized parts of the report but we cannot properly comment on it until we see it in writing.

There was some Q&A with attendees at this time, including discussion of whether Neal might later sell the shopping center to an investor. Some board members said this was commonly done in such situations.

Seminars: Mark had prepared a spreadsheet with topics and dates for approx. 20 events ranging from Oct. 3 through April. Some of the later dates are still TBD. Although the seminar program used to end in March, we are agreed that extending into April is working well. All complimented Mark and Michelle on this outstanding work, which is one of the most important, if not *the* most important, contribution to the good reputation that encourages residents to join the CA. Taras recommended contacting Mote Aquarium but Mark informed us that Mote presented 2 years ago and no doubt would do so in the future.

Board member open comments:

Dona Bay Watershed Restoration Project - Joe provided a brief update on his involvement in this issue [*Joe also provided more information to our board in a 7/14 report*]. He shared maps of the area affected, which includes a storage pond immediately to the north of VGRC. As stated in past minutes, this project is long-term and quite technical. We are fortunate that Joe has offered to remain involved and keep us informed, particularly on effects that might impact us directly, such as restoration of bay salinity, reduction of red tide and flood control.

Meeting collaboration devices - John reported that he and Joe had looked into devices such as the one the POA uses that would make for improved Zoom meetings. It appears a suitable device is available in the \$650-700 range, but he suggested that we table this for a couple months while the shopping center and road widening demand more attention. There is no rush. Steve questioned the need since so few residents attended remotely, but John pointed out that another advantage was the elimination of the need for all of us to bring laptops and turn microphones on and off during meetings.

Retreat follow-up lacking - John reminded the board that we have let lapse the initial progress that followed our March, 2023 retreat (It was not even discussed at the June meeting). He recommended that all four team leaders review their goals and meet with their teams so that they could report on progress at each CA board meeting. We agreed that this topic should be a regular agenda item at our board meetings until we agree that we have reached our objectives.

Next Meeting(s): Planned for Monday, August 14 at 3:45pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approx. 5pm.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, acting Secretary