

**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 September 11, 2023**

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Effron-President
Fred Baughman-Exec. VP & Treasurer
Mark Faford-VP
Dr Steve Hefler-VP
Sharon George
Joe Browne
Taras Kowalczyn (via zoom)

Guests present: There was 1 resident attending in person and 5 joining via Zoom.

Call to Order: Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 3:45pm and asked for a moment of silence for the victims and their families of 9/11.

Secretary's report: The minutes from the August 14, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman reported that our operating cash is \$104,997 of which \$27,177 is available for current use to meet the ongoing expenses of the Association, which are currently in the \$24-26K range annually. Our profit and loss shows a year to date income of \$23,230, expenses of \$19,915 with an operating margin of \$3315.

Membership: Sharon George stated that:

1. 65.6% of the either 1367 or 1377 homes are members.
2. Renewals begin in January, 2024 and she will start sending renewal reminders in October.
3. The membership Enrollment Form is being revised under Mark Faford's leadership. Discussion ensued regarding adding a line to the Form for an extra voluntary contribution which had been recommended by the Communications Committee. However, since this form is being sent to prospective members, that might not be appropriate prior to their joining. It was agreed to hold off on the additional line. Fred suggested a campaign to raise extra money if we wanted to encourage donations to the HRT, etc.
4. Fred said that he was working with Joe Santucci to allow an on-line option for members to pay with Venmo in addition to PayPal.
5. Membership is focusing on New Residents, those who entered the community in 2022 & 2023, as well as longtime members. Sharon will continue to request names & contact information from the CDD and POA and will provide the list of new residents prior to each monthly meeting. There are 99 new residents in 2022 & 2023 of which 33 have already become members of the CA.

6. Joe is taking the lead with a “Personal Touch” campaign of an email followed by a “knock on the door” with a Welcome Package which Sharon is working on, as well as an updated brochure, which Mark is working on.
7. Sharon is checking into the possibility of putting a sign in the River Club lobby advertising the Community Association including our QR code.
8. Sharon and her team recommended a quarterly “new residents” event beginning in January put on only by us.
9. Also recommended was that members get priority registration to the smaller events like Bike-O-Rama and CPR Training until 48 hours prior to the event, when it would be opened to non-members if there is space available.
10. Currently there are 18 homes on the market and 10 pending sales, which was noted as low since usually there are 6-8% of homes for sale.
11. Sharon will speak on membership at the Candidate Forum on October 3.

Traffic Study: Roger reminded everyone that the Traffic Study by Patel, Greene & Assoc. (PGA) was begun in Feb. 2023 and ordered in collaboration with the POA for which the CA was to pay ½ the cost. The initial study was done in March and updated in May. Earlier this month, there was a conference call between members of the VGRCCA and the POA boards along with a principal from PGA. There was agreement that some form of traffic control was needed at the Laurel Rd & Veneto Blvd intersection for cars, pedestrians, golf carts and bicycles. Sarasota County has denied an appeal for a traffic light. PGA’s study has data to support a light, however in their opinion, the project is too far along to expect a change by the County without “substantial political intervention.” Further involvement to this end was opposed by members of the POA board. PGA also conducted a Traffic Impact Review & Deficiency Analysis which concluded that in 2028, Jacaranda Blvd from Laurel Rd to Border Rd would fail to operate at acceptable levels of service during peak hours. This is contested by the City of Venice Planning Dept and the Traffic Consultant. The VGRCCA received a copy of the study last week.

Seminars & Events: Roger and Mark had prepared a 2 page “Knock Your Socks Off” pamphlet which highlights the 17 confirmed seminars & events for the 2023-2024 season (October -April) beginning with the Candidate Forum on Oct. 3rd. It was agreed that members would have registration priority until 48 hours prior to space-limited events like CPR Training & Bike-O-Rama, at which time registration will be opened to non-members if space is available.

1. Mark has also prepared a list of events with the Lead Person designated and has met with the River Club staff to assure they will set up the room prior to the Monday or Tuesday of the event.
2. In preparation for the Candidate Forum, there will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 26 to agree on questions to be asked that are not candidate specific.

Laurel Road Widening Project: Roger had provided the presentation of the Project in advance of the Board meeting, which will be presented at the Venice City Council meeting on September 12, 2023.

Web Data & the Wall:

1. Joe Browne gave a presentation with a report sent to the Board prior to the meeting using Google Analytics which provides stats & basic analytic tools to understand how the Web page is being accessed & used. There were significant upticks in views after Mary Rau-Foster sent emails to the HRT with a link to the newly created “hurricane Corner”.

- Michelle Trent had sent an update report on the Website & Wall prior to the meeting. The Wall continues to get daily use with residents posting items for sale, items searched for, recommendations of service providers and restaurant recommendations. She will be adding the 2023-24 season of seminars and events to the website this week. Joe recommended that member listings get prominence on the Website. Michelle also recommended having a monthly discussion topic on the Wall. For September 2023, it is posting of positive recommendations for roof replacement. Michelle asked for ideas for future topics.

HRT Update: Fred Baughman stated that the HRT was prepared for Hurricane Idalia with all supplies purchased and the team trained. Mary Rau-Foster monitors the Hurricane Center daily. Roger told the Board that on the anniversary of Hurricane Ian, he plans to put pictures taken from that event and the names of the HRT team in *Parcels*.

New Business: None

Board member comments: Joe Browne offered to write an article for *Parcels* on water reclamation plans as they relate to our community.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2023 @ 3:45pm. Roger asked the various committees to meet between now and then, and he also acknowledged the Board for their commitment to the community.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dr Steve Hefler, acting secretary