

**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 October 9, 2023**

**Board Members in attendance:**

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

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

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

**Secretary's report:** The minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Treasurer's report:** Fred Baughman said there are PayPal posting problems so the financial report is delayed. (Updated report: total operating cash is \$109,138 and expenses year to date are \$20,508.) Fred said he doesn't see any issue with the availability of liability coverage, just the cost increase.

**Traffic Study:** Roger Effron reported that the POA has circulated their comments on the Patel Green (PGA) study. Comments were that the study did what was intended but the summary was too technical. There was criticism of the inaccuracy of the study's statement that a traffic light would be included only if the community paid for it. Also, the Ciltadella exit is on the VCDD agenda for possible addition of entrance capability.

**NE Venice park:** John Manoush followed the City's Zoom meeting on this park, and an update and budget info will be presented to City Council later this month. There was a very low turnout for the meeting or the Zoom call, so a letter is being sent to the City Engineer explaining the reasons and restating our community's support for the park. Encouraging a follow-up presentation at a NE Venice location was discussed with no decision.

**External Affairs:** Tom Jones reviewed two petitions related to the shopping center development which will be discussed at the City Council meeting today. He noted that they would be voided if the court decides in favor of the appeal of the development. John Manoush reported on the apartment project across from the Publix (Laurel at Pinebrook) which will affect traffic in that area. He also said replies to our survey on traffic control devices for our entry favored the Hawk, however any device here needs to be approved by the County.

**Membership:** Sharon George said she has sent out renewal reminders to 391 expiring memberships with many replies already. She has circulating a list of these and asked for assistance by board members in contacting and encouraging these members. She's also updated the welcome packet and supports a new resident social in January.

**Candidate Forum debrief:** Roger Efron asked for comments on how the Forum went. Replies were that it was well-presented, professional control of the room and speakers, all candidates gave full answers to the same questions, and the mix of questions was excellent. Negatives were that it ran long and should be started earlier to finish by 6:30pm. There were 269 views of the video as of last week.

**VCDD opinion:** Roger Efron reported that at today's VCDD meeting, the VGRCCA was recognized as different from other private organizations from the standpoint of use of the River Club. So The Community Association will be waived from any policy restrictions for the next 3 months until the board can review them.

**Seminars & Events:** Mark Faford gave the board an update on events, with CPR class signups starting shortly in advance of the Oct. 18 session date. In November, the mug shot event for pet photography and "A chance to live" are on the schedule.

**New Business:** None

**Board member comments:** There were positive comments on what the VGRCCA provides for the community, with the Candidate Forum being the most recent example, in addition to CPR and other informative seminars. All were positive about purchasing an Owl device for \$800 to improve our Zoom meetings, and it was suggested we borrow the POA's device to see if it fits our needs. Joe Browne mentioned that traffic to our website has jumped almost 30% in the past 3 months, partially because of hurricane updates but also indicating a general rise in reader interest.

**Next Meeting:** The next board meeting will be held on November 13, 2023 @ 3:45pm at the River Club.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones, Secretary