

**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 12, 2024**

**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 Kowalczyk  
Chip Melvin  
Terry Leary

**Guests present:** There were 6 residents attending in person and 4 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 January 8, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Financial motions:** Fred Baughman made two motions: (1) name Crandall “Chip” Melvin as the new treasurer of the Association, and (2) authorize these board members to have signing authority for all accounts of the Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association (VGRCCA) held at First Horizon Bank:

**Frederick Baughman  
Crandall Melvin  
Sharon George  
Thomas Jones**

Both motions were passed with a unanimous vote.

**Treasurer’s report:** Fred Baughman reported that our total operating cash is \$88,440 (with \$37,865 of that in a landscape buffering reserve). He said the budget for 2024 estimates revenue of \$24,370 and the same for projected expenses. He noted that our insurance (general liability, directors & officers liability, and umbrella coverage) policy payment for 2024 was \$9,456, which is about 40% of the annual budget. This amount has doubled in the past 2 years, and a dues increase or adjustment in our coverage may be necessary. We are categorized as a “social organization”, differing from a homeowners association, which gives us a lower liability rate.

**Financial transition:** **Chip Melvin** said the treasurer's book prepared by Fred Baughman was very helpful and made the transition easy. Chip is now our official treasurer.

**Seminars:** **Roger Effron** gave an update on Shredfest/Junkfest. Shredmedic has been hired at a cost of \$600 plus \$200 for fuel, as the previous vendor raised their rates substantially. The City of Venice charges a dumpster fee of \$300. **Mark Faford** reviewed the January events on mental health and phone camera photography, both of which were well-attended and received good reviews. Bike-O-Rama, which had been postponed for 3 weeks, was attended by almost 100 residents with their bicycles. The CPR sessions were full and went very well. In February, Shredfest and estate planning are scheduled.

**External Affairs:** **Taras Kowalczy**n spoke on the City planning meeting and said that Roger Clark, City planning director, gave a very good report and was very easy to understand. **Tom Jones** said the County is building a mosquito management facility on Honore Avenue across from the Knight Sheriff's Vehicle Maintenance facility. A letter was sent by the CA to County Commissioner Joe Neunder questioning the exterior appearance of the new building, which will be corrugated metal.

**Ajax Agreement:** **Roger Effron** presented a history of the agreement, dating back to 2013, and the letter from the POA which asked that we provide them with a copy. Roger said he met recently with Marshall Happer, the POA board president, and gave him a copy of the agreement. The CA is holding \$37,865 in a landscaping reserve, which is the balance remaining from the \$50,000 we received from Ajax when the agreement was completed in 2013. The CA is open to work with the POA on how to spend these funds for a landscaping buffer. The VCDD has also inquired about how they will be used.

**Membership:** **Sharon George** reported that membership is at 62% of the community, and 57 of 137 new residents have joined. Membership will be part of the new resident event tomorrow. She said person-to-person contact to encourage joining and checks on membership at events are the most beneficial ways to increase our numbers.

**Website:** **Roger Effron** said that Sharon George is the contact regarding "Wall of Something" questions and membership page issues. The official VGRCCA address has been changed to Sharon's home. Joe Browne is the contact for any website technical issues. **Joe Browne** reported that January was the best month ever with 1,691 website views. **Sharon George** said the "Wall" and resources page have very helpful video instructions.

**Town Hall meeting:** **Roger Effron** gave an update on the meeting which will have a theme of "Stay Informed" with 1 hour of presentations and a short break with questions to follow. The schedule of speakers includes the Mayor, school superintendent, and county public works director/county engineer.

**Gratitude Awards:** **John Manoush** said that at the Town Hall meeting, 4 VGRC residents will receive a framed certificate award to recognize them for their volunteer work to help our community.

**Annual Meeting:** **Tom Jones** reviewed the annual meeting on April 15 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in April). A committee of Tom, Joe Browne, and Terry Leary will select the slate of candidates.

**City Safety Issues:** **Roger Effron** spoke on the issue of the City having difficulty retaining employees. He commented on the Venice Fire and Police departments staffing problems, including the need for better pay and possible housing support in order to avoid high turnover, while trying to better serve the needs of our growing city. He asked if there was interest in a seminar on this topic and it was positive, although no resolution was passed. **John Manoush** mentioned that the City held a strategic planning meeting on this topic on Feb 5, though the outcome has not yet been published.

**New Business:** **Fred Baughman** addressed additional functions that should be maintained after his departure from the board in a few months. He felt that the CA needed a liaison with the HRT going forward. **Steve Hefler** replied that he was already in place to fulfill this role. Fred also wanted to ensure that someone took over the duties of flag placement 3 times per year, including purchasing new flags when needed and sharpening the poles. **Terry Leary** volunteered to manage this with **Taras Kowalczyn** in an assisting role.

**Board Member Comments:** **Mark Faford** acknowledged and thanked the staff of the River Club for the outstanding cooperation we have received in setting up for our events.

**Steve Hefler** suggested that we consider inviting Roger Clark to speak here with a shorter version of the talk on development he presented on Feb. 8.

**Fred Baughman** expressed thanks and compliments for the work Sharon and Joe Santucci have done setting up our website to allow convenient payment with PayPal and Venmo. It was agreed Sharon would write a *Parcels* article pointing out these convenient options.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is on Monday, March 11 at 3:45pm at the River Club.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones, Secretary