

**Minutes of the *Special* 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 22, 2024**

**Board Members in attendance:**

Roger Effron - President  
Chip Melvin - Treasurer  
Tom Jones - secretary  
Mark Faford - VP  
Dr. Steve Hefler – VP  
Sharon George  
John Manoush  
Joe Browne  
Taras Kowalczyk  
Terry Leary

**Guests present:** There were 4 residents attending in person (Darlene & Tim Schimberg, Salli Duncan, and Ruth Cordner) and 6 joining via Zoom.

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**Call to Order:** Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

**Public Comment:** Darlene and Tim Schimberg both had positive comments about the Town Hall meeting, and Tim thanked the board for presenting him with a gratitude award.

**Town Hall meeting recap:** Roger Effron led a discussion on the Town Hall meeting. Comments from board members included the benefit of the 5pm start time, positive comments from several as they left, and the lineup of speakers being knowledgeable and informative. Concerns were parking and directing attendees through the school courtyard gates. Total cost of the event was about \$2,500 which included renting the school cafeteria, paying the sound manager, and printing and sign expenses.

**Ajax Agreement:** Roger Effron reviewed the history of the agreement. The president of the POA board requested a copy of the agreement and was given a copy during a meeting between him and Roger. We consulted with our attorney on our rights and obligations, and a 4-person committee of board members worked together on the best solution to spending the remainder of the money given to the CA in 2013, which totals \$37,865. Land ownership and where a landscape buffer could be placed was looked at, including what was owned by the CDD, the POA, and the golf club. Roger read the letter written by the committee which called for disbursement of 10% of the remainder to the POA and 90% to the CDD and made it a motion. There was discussion by board members, and the motion passed by a vote of 8-2 (Hefler and Faford dissenting).

**New Business:** The subject of the Patel Green traffic study was brought up and what the board should do about the apparent reduced invoice amount to the POA. The VGRCCA had agreed to contribute to the study and pay half of the cost almost two years ago. Taras Kowalczyk said half of the reduced cost of the 3 studies amounted to about \$8,000, and Mark Faford made a motion to ask the POA to keep any refund owed to the VGRCCA. He said this was in the spirit of collaboration and honoring our commitment. Discussion centered around whether the POA had fully included the VGRCCA in the decisions on the content of the study and the cost. As there was no consensus, Mark withdrew the motion and asked that it be discussed again at a future meeting.

**Board meeting dates:** Tom Jones led a discussion on the April, May and June meeting dates and times, and it was agreed to hold the meetings on April 15, May 20 and June 17 and start at 3:30pm.

**New business:** Roger Effron said he asked the City to place a sign on Laurel Road to mark the location of the new NE Venice city park, and the City manager agreed to do this.

**Comments:** John Manoush said the problem with the Owl device was fixed during the meeting, allowing partial participation by Zoom. Joe Browne suggested we consider a seminar with a presentation on Sarasota's history. Mark Faford said he provided pizzas for the staff at Laurel Nokomis School as a thank you for their assistance. Steve Hefler asked that we consider an off-season seminar for residents who are here during the summer and fall.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is on Monday, April 15 at 3:30pm at the River Club. It will be followed by the VGRCCA annual meeting at 5pm.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones, Secretary