

**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 April 15, 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 Kowalczyzn
Terry Leary

Guests present: There were 23 residents attending in person and 9 joining via Zoom.

Call to Order: Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

Secretary's report: The minutes from the March 11, 2024 board meeting and March 22, 2024 special meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: There were 4 speakers: #1 spoke about the River Club golf cart parking policy, #2 complimented the CA for Shredfest and Sharpfest and suggested we ask for donations, #3 complimented the CA and recommended that the balance of the Ajax money be spent on the golf course berm, and #4 gave appreciation to the CA board for their efforts and seconded the suggestion to ask for donations.

Treasurer's report: Our cash account balance is \$48,016, which includes checks written but not cashed for the Ajax funds, revenue was \$21,829 and expenses were \$19,005. There was a discussion on the cost of some events and about charging a fee to defray the cost. Shredfest cost \$516 last year and \$1,252 this year. A discussion on a dues increase was tabled until a later date.

External Affairs: Taras Kowalczyzn reported on information from Sarasota County that about 99% of the design work is done on the Laurel Road widening project. It still may be 4 to 6 months before the design is publicly revealed.

Seminar Reviews: Mark Faford covered our recent events and their large crowds. The plan for next year includes Bike-O-Rama and Shredfest with dates set. Other repeats from this year and new topics were discussed. Steve Hefler and Terry Leary volunteered to assist Mark.

Status of the Ajax fund: Roger Effron gave the background on the Ajax agreement and the remaining surplus of \$37,865. The board decided last month to distribute checks for 10% of the remainder to the POA and 90% to the VCDD. The POA refused to accept the check and has returned it. The VCDD board delayed accepting their check until they could hear further from the CA and POA.

This motion was made and unanimously approved: *No VGRCCA funds can be donated to benefit a private, for-profit business.*

Another motion was made and unanimously approved: *The VGRCCA will give the remaining surplus funds from the Ajax agreement totaling \$37,865 to the VCDD for the purpose of landscaping or buffering specifically on VCDD property. The VCDD owns most of the land along the VGRC northern boundary and is in the best position to determine where along the boundary this money can be best used to install buffering between Ajax and VGRC to benefit the largest number of Venetian residents.*

In further discussion, it was reported that Fred Baughman, former treasurer, calculated an estimate of the interest earned on the Ajax surplus since 2013 at \$610 (per his email on 2-28-24). Roger Effron said this money was used for our legal fees pertaining to disbursement of the surplus.

Board member comments: Steve Hefler said there were several errors in the River Club newsletter when reporting on CA events. Mark Faford said the RC staff is aware and tending to more accuracy. Steve Hefler said another community is interested in setting up an HRT and by consensus there was no problem with them using what we have posted on our website. Joe Browne gave the status of the City of Venice water booster pump station and said the first of two tanks has been installed. Tom Jones and Mark Faford presented Roger Effron with a plaque to honor his long service to the board and as president the past two years.

Next Meeting: Our next board meeting is on Monday, May 20 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones, Secretary