

**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 Dec. 16, 2024**

Board Members attending:

Tom Jones - Co-president
Mark Faford – Co-president - *via* Zoom
Chip Melvin - Treasurer
John Manoush – Secretary
Sharon George – Membership Chair
Joe Browne – Web Administrator
Roger Effron
Terry Leary
Dr. Steve Hefler
Taras Kowalczyk – *via* Zoom

Guests present: There was an average of 6 residents attending in person and 1 to 2 on Zoom

Call to Order: Tom Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary’s report: The minutes from the previously distributed November 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Rich Goodman, newly elected CDD supervisor, informed us that he had been designated liaison to the CA as part of an initiative to improve communication between Venetian organizations. We welcomed Rich and welcomed the CDD initiative.

Hurricane Response Team: Roughly half of today’s meeting was devoted to a discussion of HRT issues led by **Mary Rau Foster**. A major current concern is “to find a cost-effective way of communicating among HRT members during a disaster”. She presented a handout that listed criteria for such a system and described two devices being evaluated. They have had a positive test of the Motorola TLK110, which uses the 5G cell network; but the requirement for cell service is a potential drawback. They have also looked into the SL300, a 2-way radio, but the range was too limited unless a powered “repeater” antenna was added. A total cost over \$20K was estimated for the SL300, with possible ongoing costs for licensing and/or service. Some suggested that costs should be shared or borne by the CDD and POA since not all residents are CA members. Purchasing or leasing fewer than 12 units will be considered to lower cost. A fundraising campaign was discussed but cannot be started before we define our needs. Joe will investigate the Starlink system that uses satellites to access the Internet. More study is needed to weigh the performance and cost of all options to decide whether an expenditure of this size is warranted for an emergency of low probability.

Treasurer’s report: Chip Melvin reported that although we show a small YTD profit of \$1,116, it resulted entirely from April’s \$8,475 traffic study refund. We are in fact losing about \$5,000 per year. Event costs continue going up, particularly for audio-visual services. Our “cushion” of around \$63,000 cash will be depleted unless we take corrective actions. Chip is pursuing increasing our interest income and is negotiating with 3 insurance companies, including studying whether we can safely reduce our coverage. The sponsorship of Parcels will help cushion our losses to the tune of \$1,000 or more per year. Together, these measures should reduce our annual loss by about half. The idea of creating an option for CA members to make donations that exceed their \$30 annual dues was strongly favored. We requested that Sharon and her membership committee (Chip, Joe and Mark) meet to develop an implementation plan that

addresses challenges such as design of forms, website, donor acknowledgement, record-keeping and other issues the team may identify.

Membership: **Sharon George** reported that we are now at 66.7% membership, the highest level since December of 2022. The “Wall” continues to grow in usage. A newcomers meeting is set for January 7 at 10:00, with an invitation soon going out to all residents moving here from 2022 on.

Seminar planning: **Mark Faford** reported there have been 3 successful seminars since our last meeting. January will be busy with estate planning, wildlife rescue and Bike-o-Rama. We will begin planning for the March 10 Town Hall meeting. Mark and others complimented Joe on keeping our website appealing with frequent updates and images. Steve has been coordinating to ensure each seminar has a lead person and alternate.

External Affairs: **John Manoush** mentioned that the Venice **Planning Commission** expects to take up the site and development plan for the shopping center at its Jan. 7 meeting. We decided to take no independent action but to support the POA in its efforts to influence the commission in terms of stipulations for the center. **Tom Jones** will speak with POA President Barbara Silkworth to express CA support. Tom reported that the NE Venice Park construction is likely to start early in 2025 and that more retail shops continue to develop in the Laurel/Knights vicinity, including a storage facility that will be behind the Dollar Tree. **Joe Browne** recently updated our website’s feature on the water booster station, scheduled for completion near the end of 2025. **Taras** reported that the Laurel Rd widening is in the land acquisition process and we are likely to see work begin in 2026. **Steve** asked if Taras might inform his contact of potholes on Laurel Rd.

Website: **Joe Browne** reported that our website views are about 9% higher than Nov. of 2023. Nov. 6 saw a spike due to reporting of election results. More compliments went to Joe for his work.

Old Business: **John Manoush** reported that he has been issuing updated Outreach charts about twice per month and did not see the need to maintain this as a regular agenda item unless the program is changed. He again expressed the hope that other board members found the charts useful and that they would continue informing him of corrections and additions.

New Business: **Tom Jones** raised the topic of adding a new board member. Although we do not expect the departure of any current members, we have one opening to reach our allotment of 11 members. Roger asked Tom to write an appeal to appear in the next *Parcels*. A selection committee consisting of Joe, Tom and John will work on the planning. **Roger Efron** recommended that each board member use his/her personal contacts to promote the CA with respect to fundraising, membership and attendance at seminars.

Board Member Comments: **Steve Hefler** volunteered to keep the River Club informed of our meeting times for their calendar, since they published the wrong time for today.

Next Meeting: We considered alternative times or dates but elected to stay with the 3rd Monday at 10:00 as we begin 2025. Our next meeting is on **Monday, January 20, 2024** at the River Club at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, Secretary