

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
The Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association, Inc.
Held at the River Club on August 18, 2025

Board Members attending:

Tom Jones – Co-president

Mark Faford – Co-President

Dr. Steve Hefler

Joe Browne

Roger Effron

Terry Leary

Darlene Schimberg

Attending via Zoom: John Manoush – Secretary; Taras Kowalczyn – Exec VP

Unable to attend: Chip Melvin - Treasurer; Sharon George – Membership Chair

Guests present: There were up to 7 residents attending in person, including Barbara Silkworth representing the POA and 2 new residents.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and took roll call.

Comments from POA representative: Barbara Silkworth spoke about plans for the streetscape improvement process being led by the ACC. Residents will soon receive a communicate stressing the advantages of signing up for automatic ACH payment of quarterly assessments.

Secretary's Report: The last draft last sent to board members by John and Tom was unanimously approved.

Public Comments: None

Board Nomination Committee: Terry updated the board on a recent Zoom meeting he and Sharon had with Salli Duncan. He recounted some of her many qualifications and highly recommended her for election to our board. Tom added that treasurer Chip Melvin has had to resign from our board due to personal and health reasons. Salli was unanimously approved as a board member and Treasurer and invited to immediately take part.

HRT - Steve led this discussion since Mary Rau Foster could not attend. HRT training has been completed. He reviewed the donation of a generator for the guardhouse by Tom Long and the CDD's contribution of \$3300 for a transfer switch - an example of cooperation among the 3 organizations in the Venetian.

Revenue Team - Joe gave a summary of progress and plans. The "donations module" has been active on our website since 8/1, and 12 residents have made donations totaling \$643. In

testing the process, board members accounted for about half of that total and reported some minor glitches as hoped. These have been corrected. It is noteworthy that these donations occurred prior to any announcement of the initiative. We intend to thank each donor not only with a quick popup message, but also with a follow up email. Joe described our hopes to automate this process to ensure each donor receives a prompt email that would serve to thank the donor and point out how their donation will benefit the community. We are planning to announce the donation initiative to all residents via Constant Contact on Sept. 2 [later changed to Sept. 3]. Although the announcement letter has been edited and approved, we intend to follow up on Roger's recent recommendation to adopt a catchy title or slogan for the program, much as we have with ShredFest or HRT. Joe and John will welcome any suggestions and will put out a revised announcement for review within the next few days.

Membership: Mark reviewed Sharon's most recent report, showing that membership has reached 63% of residents - a high for 2025. New resident membership, at 48%, also represents a high point since she started tracking it. She has been working hard to persuade the 313 residents whose memberships expire this year to renew. The prospect of using an outside vendor to improve our data management was investigated but found prohibitively costly. Joe is working with Joe Santucci to investigate ways to automate parts of the work Sharon now does manually. Questions about membership from new members in attendance were addressed by several board members.

Seminars: On behalf of the committee that includes Steve, Darlene and Terry, Mark updated us on plans for the coming season. There are 15 events already committed, with the next event on Sept. 29. Mark looked into Taras' golf cart maintenance idea, but was unable to find a vendor to conduct it. He mentioned the "short takes spotlights" idea the committee is trying to develop, with ideas that include cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence. Darlene has lined up a speaker for flood insurance and reverse mortgages. The "Socks" brochure should be issued by mid-September.

Website: Joe reported 2,600 views by 600 users in July, the second-best month on record and 115% more views compared to July, 2024. "Our accomplishments" draws a lot of views, along with Membership and Hurricane Corner. Joe has been conducting small group training sessions to help residents navigate our website and the HRT Facebook (FB) page. There was some discussion about utilizing FB beyond HRT, how the page will prevent misinformation (this has been considered in the design), and how members will be notified of new postings by Mary (this is automatic unless the user has opted out of notifications).

External: Tom inquired if Joe had any new information on the water booster station and the answer remains, 'not yet but soon'. Tom reported that the city will soon take up an appeal from Visterra to increase the number of homes from 1300 to 1617. The planned Venice Crossings shopping center across from Laurel Nokomis school is moving forward, and is currently expected to include a Wal-Mart and Panda Express. A storage facility is planned on Border Rd just west of Aria and a hotel is planned for Laurel approximately across from the new NE Park. Roger suggested that the CA send a note of congratulations to Neal Communities for being

named one of the best employers in the area in a recent poll. Mark announced that the CA has been approved by the City of Venice as the first "adopter" of the NE Park. This will require a minimum of a quarterly clean-up and inspection. Venice will post a sign acknowledging our contribution when the park opens next Spring.

Board Member Comments: Terry and other board members thanked Chip for his contributions to the CA and also welcomed Salli to our board. Darlene inquired about how *Parcels* sponsorships were going and Roger informed us that we were covered through Nov. Mark reported that he and Tom had met with Barbara Silkworth and Jill Pozarek to continue the Leadership Circle discussions, currently focused on developing proposals on how to better "market" The Venetian. Roger asked if there was any resolution to the Welcome Center question. Tom provided some information on possibilities, but there is no firm decision at this time. This issue is complicated due to ownership by the Golf Club and oversight by the CDD, giving the CA and the POA no actual power to change things except by trying to influence those entities. Joe suggested we might be better off to push for improving the landscaping even if the building itself remains unchanged. John suggested that the CA become more actively involved in supporting the POA's "Wow Factor" initiative, since it is interrelated with our own mission of improving the quality of life here. The proposed revisions of our by-laws are done, but we will put off official approval until our Sept or Oct meeting when we are closer to full board attendance.

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 15 at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.

Respectfully submitted, John Manoush, Secretary