

**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 July 21, 2025**

Board Members attending:

Tom Jones – Co-president
John Manoush – Secretary
Sharon George – Membership Chair
Joe Browne
Roger Effron
Terry Leary
Darlene Schimberg

Attending via Zoom

Mark Faford – Co-President
Taras Kowalczyk – Exec VP

Unable to attend:

Dr. Steve Hefler
Chip Melvin – Treasurer

Guests present: There were up to 7 residents attending in person, including Barbara Silkworth representing the POA, Cyndi Sniezek of the VCDD, and Mary Rau Foster, leader of our HRT (Hurricane Response Team). There were up to 4 residents on Zoom, not counting board members.

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

Comment from POA President: Barbara introduced us to our new community manager, Olfa Reyes of Real Manage, who was present and welcomed. She updated us on the implementation of the new CWS (Community Wide Standards), and the 3 phases in which the POA will implement property inspections. Roger suggested it may be a good time to press the golf club about the former welcome center, and also offered to help the inspection effort by publicizing it in *Parcels*. Barbara complimented the CA and HRT on the Bob Harrigan presentation.

Public Comment: A resident asked if there were any updates regarding the shopping center, but we were unaware of any new developments.

HRT update: Mary Rau Foster mentioned the recent Harrigan lecture. She announced the 2nd HRT training for tomorrow and invited anyone to attend at 4 pm. She reported on the progress of the Facebook page, now at 427 members. Joe Browne is doing the Facebook 3rd training session tomorrow. A new program called “Check on me” is being added this year for those who live alone and request assistance. An educational session is planned for August (date TBA). The HRT is improving its property inspection process. Team member Tom Long purchased a gasoline generator for the HRT and the CDD assumed the \$3,300 cost of installing a transfer switch. Mary has been educating herself on the remote probability of Myakka River flooding. Mary and Dick Foster donated an additional 4 walkie-talkies, for a total of 16. In addition to good relationships with Venice police and fire, Mary has met the Emergency Mgt. Coordinator for SMH.

Treasurer’s report: In Chip’s absence, Tom briefly reported on our cash position and informed us that a money market account has been opened to get much better interest. Sharon is investigating online banking.

Revenue Team report: John briefly described the progress of the Revenue Team (with members Joe, Steve and Chip). Joe Browne and John have met twice with our web consultant, Joe Santucci, who has completed most of the “under the hood” work that will enable the site to track dues and donations separately. Joe and John will be meeting this Weds to redesign the user interface for a revised “Membership and Donations” page. This will enable a resident to easily pay dues along with an added donation, or to donate aside from dues at any time, either online or by mailing a check. The team’s plan was to announce this with a prepared email blast and in *Parcels* by the first week in Aug. Roger suggested we delay this rollout because August was a bad time to get resident attention, based on data showing less opening of *Parcels* in June-August. He promoted the idea of considering marketing (“re-branding”) of the CA and coordinating it with the donations rollout. This might include such things as changing our logo/motto. He suggested creating a committee

(Roger, John, Sharon and Taras) to study these issues. There was much discussion about the timing of the announcement, but we eventually agreed to get the web changes implemented as originally planned the first week of August, but to delay the public announcement until early Sept. This would allow for some additional testing plus a larger expected audience. John requested that any board members who have specific proposals for changes in our previously announced plans make them known before the public launch date.

Secretary's report: The June minutes were unanimously approved.

Membership Report: Sharon reported that current membership stands at 61.4%. Data from Tek-Wave will allow her to begin marketing to renters. She had sent out a new chart showing "expiration trends", showing 368 memberships expiring in 2025. Her team met and considered various ways to increase membership and revenue. Resident orientation will be held 3x per year (note removal of the previously used "new"). She will be evaluating an outside service that claims to improve the quantity and quality of data used to track memberships. Sharon will be encouraging Olfa to include CA information in the POA's new resident packet.

Seminar planning: Terry reported that the 2025-26 "Socks" calendar should be ready in Sept. Eleven events are confirmed, with 3 others close. Taras suggested a string quartet, but most felt that entertainment events were outside the CA's purview. Darlene will bring it up to the POA Social Committee that she leads. She also welcomed suggestions for a "short-takes" initiative, whereby residents with special knowledge might give 15-minute presentations. Taras proposed a "golf cart-o-rama" with similar functions as Bike-O-Rama.

Website: Joe reported that there has been an 83% increase in web views since he first began tracking this in 2023. After the Home page, the Hurricane pages drive the most visits, followed by The Wall. The recent Harrigan talk drove views. The HRT Facebook link is gaining users quickly.

External Affairs: Taras spoke about his contacts with the collaborative team and with the County, but there is nothing new to report. There is little hope for a traffic light at Veneto. He felt that the opening of a shopping center could be several years off. The road widening project is currently engaged with land acquisition. Darlene reported that the CDD had begun discussing the Ciltadella access road. Joe informed us that the water booster station was again delayed, with a new estimate of mid-August. Tom reported on Venice Crossings, west on Laurel, close to and across from the school. Although it promises to be a large retail center, the only announced tenant is Panda Express. We are monitoring this but are not taking any active role. John stated that he will continue to issue "Outreach charts", but that board members should not rely on them because he cannot keep up with all events. We discussed the Northeast Park "sponsorship" that Roger recently informed us of. Board members were enthusiastic about this and asked Roger to make it known that the CA is interested, with the only limitation being no cleanup of dog droppings. Tom continues to manage the Laurel Road cleanup and expects to request help in the Fall as the current condition seems OK.

Old Business: We discussed options for reviewing the proposed by-laws changes that John has coordinated, and settled on a **special meeting at 11:00 on Friday, August 1**. Roger re-introduced the proposal for a "marketing" committee as stated under the Revenue Team section above.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is on **Monday, August 18, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. at the River Club. Since neither Sharon nor John will be present to operate The Owl, we decided to eliminate the public Zoom invitation from that meeting announcement. John and other board members will still join in online.

Board Member Comments: Roger announced that Parcels will come out the 1st week in August, since there was no July issue. He will ask Mary to hold back on any non-emergency HRT announcements that week to avoid a conflict. He noted that Constant Contact allows us to segment the communications in various ways. Joe suggested that we offer free membership to our "Club 90" members. Roger complimented Sharon for her attentiveness to the Reach Out program, which includes not only sympathy but also illness and other major life events.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary