

**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 September 15, 2025**

Board Members attending:

Mark Fafor – Co-President
Sharon George – Membership Chair
Dr. Steve Hefler
Joe Browne
Roger Effron
Terry Leary
Darlene Schimberg

Attending via Zoom

John Manoush – Secretary
Chip Melvin – Treasurer
Taras Kowalczyk - Exec. VP

Unable to attend:

Tom Jones – Co-President
Salli Duncan – Treasurer-Elect

Guests present: There were up to 8 residents attending in person plus two on Zoom, not counting board members.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. **Note:** This meeting took place in the bar area due to failure of the River Club to hold our reservation.

Comments from CDD and POA Liaisons: Rich Goodman commented on the planned transition of River Club management from Vesta to Hampton Golf as of Oct. 1. An announcement will be issued soon. Mark asked about the recent installation of speed bumps. It is not yet clear whether repairs will lessen the severity of the bumps, which are not appreciated by all residents. Barbara Silkworth described POA plans for streetscape improvement, with emphasis on attaining compliance with the “2 palms and a hardwood” CWS requirement for all front yards. She stated that, community-wide, we are far short of this. Full compliance will be expected by the end of 2026, with reasonable exceptions made on an individual basis.

Public Comment: None

Secretary’s report: The previously distributed minutes for August 18 were unanimously approved.

HRT update: Mary Rau Foster stated that all has been quiet thus far this season. She commented on improved interaction with the River Club in helping prepare for storms. She periodically posts news on the Facebook HRT page, now at 462 members. The HRT currently has 52 trained volunteers.

Treasurer’s report: Chip reported a net loss of \$2,947 through August YTD. With continued levels of membership dues plus the donations that have started coming in, we should end the year in good shape. He asked whether the city was ever going to bill us for Junkfest, but with no information from anyone, he will likely reverse the \$450 estimate he had entered. \$781 in funds are restricted for HRT use, although our board may vote to use these funds for other purposes. Chip and Salli have worked together on the transition, and he expects that Salli will close out the month of September with his help as needed. The photo capture of checks has been a help in reconciling CAMM reports to bank records. There is a slight glitch regarding donations that he has discussed with Joe Santucci and expects can be corrected shortly. Chip’s attempts to change the “owner” of our PayPal account from Fred Baughman to himself are at an impasse. With the expectation that this will be Chip’s final report, board members thanked him for his good work.

Revenue Team report: Joe reported that the donation module on our website was activated on August 1, while the announcement of the donations process went out to residents on September 3. Response has been encouraging, with some 42 residents having donated to date. Joe has been thanking each donor promptly by individual emails. This has been very well received, but it is burdensome. He has requested that Joe Santucci “automate” the process and believes this is realistic. At Roger’s suggestion, a “Your Donation Matters” placard has been produced and was displayed at this meeting. John stressed the

importance of the thank-you's as the surest way to help ensure that past donors will continue to donate. The Revenue Team plans to roll out another incentive at a date TBD by thanking Gold and Platinum donors by name in *Parcels*, unless the donor requested anonymity (this option was built into the system).

Website Report: Joe mentioned that August was the 2nd best month in 2.5 years thanks to website views that were 130% above the same month last year. He has made a concerted effort to post news and information on a timely basis, helping engage more readers. Joe has also continued training small groups of residents on how to use Facebook (and the computer itself in some cases). He hopes to begin training soon on protecting residents' online data and guarding against scams and frauds.

Membership Report: Sharon informed us that membership stands at 64% vs. 63% prior month. She continues to contact those with expiring memberships (295 this year) with reminders to renew. New residents are joining at a rate of almost 51%. Tek-Wave has improved her ability to get resident contact information. She plans an orientation meeting for late this year.

Seminar planning: Mark reported that residents will be notified tomorrow of access to the new *Knock Your Socks Off* Brochure, and acknowledged his team members of Darlene, Steve and Terry. He listed some of the forthcoming committed events. The March 16 THM will be held at the River Club to attain a savings of approx. \$2,000.

External Affairs: Joe updated us on the water booster station – not yet - but hopes are high for operation by early October! Taras reported that our key Sarasota County Public Works contact, Spencer Anderson, had left his position but remains as a consultant. The Laurel Widening project continues to be engaged with land acquisition. A concern over potholes on Laurel was raised and Taras requested more information in the form of photos, which Darlene volunteered to provide. Roger reviewed what he knew about the Wal-Mart and Home Depot shopping center planned for the land across Laurel from the elementary school (as already reported in *Parcels*). Construction may begin soon. He also felt that land clearing operations for the "Publix" shopping center might also begin soon, since permits have been issued to relocate the "lake".

Public Comments (2): A question on what other stores would be involved and the timing for the Publix center could not be answered with any certainty.

Old Business: None

Board Member Comments: Sharon asked if plans were in place to host Mayor Pachota to speak about the Seaboard Project at our October meeting (yes). Roger complimented Cheryl Terrana of the CDD for writing an article about common area landscaping improvements in the recent *Parcels*. He also mentioned that the Golf Course is now cleaning up what had been an unsightly stretch of landscaping along the north side of Pesaro ever since Hurricane Ian. There was extended discussion about the Welcome Center with no particular action agreed upon, although the CDD is attempting to convince the Golf Club to improve the landscaping at minimum.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is on **Monday, October 20, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. at the River Club. Mayor Pachota will be invited.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary