

**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 December 15, 2025**

Board Members attending:

Mark Faford – Co-President
Tom Jones – Co-President
Salli Duncan – Treasurer
John Manoush – Secretary
Sharon George – Membership Chair
Dr. Steve Heffler
Joe Browne
Roger Effron
Darlene Schimberg
Terry Leary

Attending *via* Zoom

Taras Kowalczyn - Exec. VP

Guests present: There were up to 5 residents attending in person and 2 on Zoom, not counting our board member.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Comments from POA Liaison: Barbara Silkworth reminded all of the 12/16 POA annual meeting.

Secretary's report: The previously distributed minutes for November 17 were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: A question regarding game playing rules at the River Club was referred to the CDD.

HRT update: Mary Rau Foster was unable to attend but plans to join us at our January meeting.

Treasurer's report: Salli reported that cash flow and revenue were both improved over 2024. She has invested part of our cash balance at higher interest rates, such that 2025 through November earnings were \$596 compared to \$188 prior year. She moved \$40K to a CD whose interest is not yet reflected in reports. She also changed the payment plan for our Zoom account to annual, for an ongoing annual savings of \$158. There was discussion about the need to organize information around who on our board had "ownership" of and access to accounts for various services, including Zoom, Constant Contact, PayPal, Ning (Wall of Something) and Camm. Tom requested that Salli create a spreadsheet so that this information (including any passwords) is consolidated and maintained. Since the information is confidential, it will be available to our Treasurer and Presidents only.

Salli also reported on an investigation she has been making regarding state of FL reporting requirements for nonprofits (She had provided board members background via email). The CA has been filing state and federal nonprofit reports, but she learned of a 1991 FL Dept of Agriculture requirement (Chapter 496) that requires reporting from nonprofits that solicit contributions from the public. The purpose of the statute is to protect consumers from fraud. "Solicitation" is rather broadly defined in the statute, so might be interpreted to include even the small amounts we receive through *Parcels* sponsorships.

There is an exemption for nonprofits that earn less than \$50K from donations, as well as for those that do not solicit donations from the general public; but even if we are exempt for one or both of these reasons, there remains the requirement to register, provide a financial report, submit evidence of adherence to a conflict-of-interest policy and pay a small fee of \$10. Salli will work with others as needed to develop and file the required "conflict" policy. We will place this statement or a modified version into our by-laws for a documented annual review by board members.

Revenue Team report: John reported that the team has sought minor improvements, including placing a QR code on the Your Donation Matters ("YDM") poster and adding a link to the membership & donations

page on The Wall. He stated that there have been 83 donations from Sept. 1 to present (including a few test donations). Despite the highly regarded presentation by Suni on Dec. 1, followed by an article in *Parcels*, we saw only a mild ‘bump’ in donations. He guessed that donations may be settling down to a “maintenance level” after an initial spike, as might be expected for any new program. He plans an article for the January *Parcels* that will include a list of 2025 Gold and Platinum donors. Roger expressed the view that regular reminders of YDM at our events are needed to keep YDM strong; but most board members felt that the current level of donations (plus income from *Parcels* sponsorships and Bucket Boys) has essentially eliminated our prior fiscal problems and that only occasional reminders are needed. All online donations now receive an “automated” email expressing thanks, while Sharon “manually” issues thanks to the minority of members who mail checks. We expect to soon have a parallel system of thank-you’s for dues payments.

Web / YouTube report: Joe informed us that November had the highest number of views and users since tracking began, at 4,000 and 1,500 respectively. The most read articles were water booster, mayor’s presentation and the Veteran’s Day flyover; while the most popular pages were membership, seminars and accomplishments. We credited Joe with stimulating interest by keeping the site continually updated and for taking and posting many engaging photos. With Dick Foster’s help, Joe has established a CA YouTube channel that features the video of Suny’s presentation, and a few others too. With assistance from former board member Michelle Trent, Joe has streamlined the membership/donations page to make it clearer. There was discussion on whether the entire website should be redesigned using outside paid help. Sharon and Joe felt that Augustana College would likely be the most economical source for such help. No decision was made at this meeting. Joe offered to assist the POA in identifying opportunities for improving its website.

Membership Report: Sharon reported a slight increase in membership. Of 224 new (2022-25) residents we have 119 members, with 29 of those expiring this year. She has informed board members of these and others whose membership is expiring and asked all to encourage rejoining. Roger suggested developing a short video that might be used to help promote the CA, prompting discussion over best ways to accomplish this. Mark said that the membership team has discussed this and has a spokesperson in mind already. Orientation will be held on Jan. 21, open to all residents. Registration will be required. Suny’s presentation sparked an uptick in membership.

Seminars: Mark recapped events since our last meeting, including CPR, SharPfest, scams and Suny’s Dec. 1 presentation. As part of our learning from the latter, John will purchase a spare HDMI cable, a 25-ft. extension for the speaker cable and a spare projector bulb. Steve and Terry mentioned some of the upcoming seminars (self-protection and estate planning).

The **THM planning** team met on Dec. 5 to prepare for the event (March 16 at 4:30 in the River Club dining room). Selection of speakers is ongoing, and the team welcomes ideas, including a new name for the event. Mark has asked board members for recommendations for Gratitude Award recipients as well as topics/speakers. A second team meeting is planned for Jan. 7. John asked if slides or video will be used. Although none were originally planned, Salli suggested and many supported the idea of developing a short video about the CA along the lines of, “The year in review”. After more discussion, we selected a “THM subcommittee” consisting of John, Joe, Dick Foster, Salli and Tom, with an initial meeting planned for 11:00 on Jan. 7, right after the main THM planning team.

External Affairs: Tom briefly recapped area developments. There will be 3 storage facilities within a couple miles. Venice Crossings will include a Home Depot, Wal-Mart, a gas station and other stores yet to be named. Roger said that Publix has confirmed intention to build in the center across from The Venetian. A hotel is being built near Laurel and Knights. Taras reported that right-of-way continues to be the major focus in the widening of Laurel Rd.

Board Member Comments: Roger recommended that we reschedule our normal meeting date of Jan. 19 due to the M.L. King holiday. We eventually selected Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. [changed to Jan. 20 following this meeting]. This decision does not apply to all other national holidays, many of which are on Mondays.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, January 20, 2025** at the River Club at 10:00 a.m. (see item just above).

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary