

**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 February 16, 2026**

**Board Members attending:**

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

**Attending *via* Zoom**

Taras Kowalczyn - Exec. VP

**Unable to Attend**

Tom Jones – Co-President

**Guests present:** There were up to 4 residents attending in person and 4 on Zoom.

**Call to Order:** Mark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He informed attendees that we have ordered our agenda items to place those of greater resident interest earlier in the meeting.

**Comments from POA Liaison:** None available

**Public Comment:** A suggestion to consider more convenient meeting times. Mark replied that there are many restraints, but that we will consider whether a better time can be found.

**HRT:** Mary Rau Foster provided a summary of the many significant HRT accomplishments in 2025 (available on a handout by request). The Facebook page is inactive until the 2026 season approaches. The team will again have a table at the May 29 Venice Hurricane Expo and will present the annual meeting for Venetian residents in June.

**Treasurer's report:** Salli gave us the current cash position and revenue/expense for January, leaving a profit of \$1928. She has managed to consolidate CA credit cards from 3 to 1 with herself as administrator. Our annual nonprofit report has been accepted by the state and our IRS filing is done.

Salli reported on additional work she has been doing toward full compliance with the FL Dept of Agriculture Chapter 496 statute, "Solicitation of Funds". She has filed the required annual report and it has been accepted. She has registered John as the officer in charge of solicitation as well as the person in charge of compliance. We decided that the Secretary position description in our bylaws should be modified to include this responsibility to ensure that any future Secretary is aware of it. John will work on both that and the development of standard language (per statute) to be placed on our written solicitation materials and website going forward. These requirements will not affect cash donations such as the "bucket boys", although we will take care to remove any appeal for donations on the buckets or elsewhere at the ShredFest.

Salli found that we are paying for 3 "authorized" Zoom users when only one is required to run our Zoom meetings. We agreed that Roger and Sharon will be removed as paid authorized users. In the event John is absent it will be possible for a substitute to log in under John's account. This will generate an ongoing annual savings on the order of \$277 beginning this November.

There was discussion on insurance renewal. Salli has not been able to find lower rates through other brokers. The insurance cost will be over \$13K (\$8.40 per member) -- an increase of \$3K from prior year. There was discussion about the pros and cons of the umbrella policy, which provides higher limits over the general liability policy. Roger recommended hiring an insurance lawyer to help us evaluate what our true

needs are. After extended discussion, we unanimously approved a motion to pay the current invoices now and table the discussion about our coverage needs or hiring an attorney for future meetings.

**Seminars:** Mark recapped both recent past and planned seminars, with emphasis on a very successful resident orientation. He suggested the team will be looking at the number of future events, due both to difficulty reserving the River Club and because a few past events were sparsely attended. Roger is leading the organization for this Saturday's ShredFest/JunkFest/Goodwill event.

**External Affairs:** Taras updated us on the Laurel Road widening. Land acquisition is nearly complete and an estimated 2 years of construction is expected to commence this Spring. Roger reported that the Northeast Park is progressing well and should be open this summer. He pointed out that our volunteers will be covered by the City's insurance. There is an election for City Council and CDD this November, so our seminars team will be planning a candidate forum.

**2026 Community Forum ("CF"):** The subcommittee has been meeting and 4 gratitude awardees have been selected. We expect to have each CA board member have some speaking role. Dick Foster and John have prepared to host the CF on Zoom and also provide a recording for later viewing on our YouTube channel. The live Zoom feed will be viewable in the LaSala bar area in case of an overflow crowd. Q&A will not be allowed during the program. The team will prepare cards with Zoom instructions in case any residents have to be turned away. Mark has distributed a proposed CF agenda to board members. "Teaser" cards that promote the CF and its theme, "Coming Home", will be handed out at ShredFest.

**Secretary's report:** The previously distributed minutes for January 20 were unanimously approved.

**Revenue Team report:** John had placed an article and the names of our Gold and Platinum donors in the February *Parcels*. This did not appear to create a significant "bump" in donations, but it was good to acknowledge these donors. There were a couple of Platinum donations right after the History seminar. There was discussion about ensuring we maintain convenient methods for residents to make donations and pay dues either by mail or online, rather than assume everyone is comfortable with online.

**Web / YouTube report:** Joe reported on continued record levels of users for 3 months running. The Super Bowl Challenge helped draw more residents to the website. More residents are bookmarking our site, rather than just clicking on links.

**Membership Report:** Sharon reported a rebound in membership to 812, or 59.7% of all households: ½ percent higher than same month last year. She credits the improvement to sending reminders to those with expiring memberships and outreach to new residents. For perspective, she said that we were at 70% at the end of 2022, and felt 70% was a reasonable goal. She provided more analysis, drawing on her previously distributed chart. Sharon has plans to meet individually or in small groups with new residents to help them understand the different Venetian organizations. The Wall of Something continues to grow and supplement our other efforts to attract members (Joe reported it is the 6<sup>th</sup> most visited page). A previously planned April 22 orientation is being reconsidered, and may be held as a smaller event targeted at new residents only.

**Retreat Planning:** John suggested we try to find a date for a 1/2-day retreat in May, even though both Mark and Salli will be away for part of that month. John will email all to try and find a date. The focus of the retreat will be on long-range planning and goals, with specific interest this year in considering updating our mission statement and motto ("tag line") as used on our logo. Succession planning is a topic from our 2023 retreat and Joe has located and distributed a spreadsheet that lists key positions, incumbents and backups. Mark asked Joe if he would coordinate succession information, but individual board members are responsible for creating or updating content that applies to their positions. John requested that most or all of the succession work should be done in advance in order to leave the greater share of the retreat time for exploration of long-range plans and new initiatives.

**Board Member Comments:** Joe expressed concern about traffic safety during the coming Laurel widening, and presently at the Ciltadella exit. Mark has spoken with Cheryl of the CDD, who has responsibility for this area and will continue to try and get the CDD to act on or at least study it. John informed the group that he is working on a search for a suitable replacement for the River Club projector, since the manufacturer no longer provides bulbs or other spare parts. Roger suggested that, in order to keep our meetings on track, public comment at our meetings be better controlled to the designated time or when residents are specifically recognized by our President.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is on **Monday, March 16, 2026** at the River Club at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary