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 May 18, 2026

Board Members attending:	**Unable to Attend**	**On Zoom**
Mark Faford – Co-President	Terry Leary	Taras Kowalczyn – Pres.-elect
Tom Jones – Co-President		
Salli Duncan - Treasurer	Karl Seidel	
John Manoush – Secretary		
Sharon George – Membership Chair		
Dr. Steve Hefler		
Roger Effron		
Darlene Schimberg		

Guests present: There were six resident guests attending in person and two attendees on Zoom.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Comments from POA Liaison: Barbara Silkworth emphasized the current water restrictions, stating that many residents are unclear about the distinction between irrigation water and potable water. Both are restricted, but with very different requirements. The POA has issued many violation notices, many of which are repeats for the same residents. Part of this may be due to timers being set to the wrong day, but others are watering daily. The POA is currently allowing a grace period but will begin fining noncompliant residents after May 31. In addition, the POA is not enforcing correction of violations that require power washing during the declared water emergency.

Public Comment: A resident commented on seeing burst irrigation pipes during morning walks, and on the difficulty of finding the proper person to report such events to during off hours. Another asked if the water restrictions affected the aerators in some ponds. She was referred to the CDD to report that one is not working. She also asked about how to set or adjust irrigation timers, and was advised to work through her landscaping company.

Hurricane Response Team (HRT): Mary Rau-Foster provided an update of activities as the season approaches. The HRT will participate again in Venice's May 29 Hurricane Expo. We are recruiting HRT volunteers, with 32 currently on board *vs*. a compliment of 50 last year, but it is early. There will be a community-wide hurricane preparation meeting on June 1 at 4 pm, followed by an HRT team meeting. Speakers will include Frank Giddens, James Clinch and Sandra Tapfumaneyi, Chief of County Emergency Management. Mary has contacted key department managers for the River Club to coordinate activities in the event of an emergency. At Salli's request, she is developing information to evaluate our risk as it may relate to insurance needs. Mary plans to develop an incident form. She is considering ways to further improve Hurricane Corner on our website to make the information more complete and interesting. She has reactivated the HRT Facebook page as a source of information and communication for residents. Roger complimented Mary and the HRT team for serving as an example to other communities in Venice. He attended a recent meeting and proposed that the CA and HRT members help distribute the city's Hurricane Guide to make it more readily available at more convenient locations, such as Publix and other large communities, such as Toscana Isles. This dovetails nicely with one major goal of the recent CA retreat to increase the visibility or awareness of the Venetian and the CA within the City of Venice.

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

New board member: Mark recapped recent activities for recruiting a board member to fill the vacancy created by Joe Browne's recent retirement. We have selected Karl Seidel, a resident who has extensive experience in website management. The transition will necessitate an adjustment, since Karl will not be in

FL for most of the year, making it necessary to correspond remotely. Darlene recommended that we make it clear who Karl's principal contact will be in order to prevent possible mix-ups with messages from different board members. John stated that he was currently that person, and was tasked (at our retreat) to lead a team to develop exactly these guidelines. Steve pointed out that Taras seldom attends our meeting in person, yet attends remotely and contributes. Karl was unanimously approved as a board member.

External Affairs: Tom announced a Laurel Rd cleanup for May 19 at 8:30. The NE Park will be opening in June. In response to a suggestion from John that we involve residents who are not board members to participate in park monitoring/cleanup, Tom recommended we wait for the town to make their expectations clearer. Mark read an update from the city stating that construction would be completed in May and the ribbon cutting would take place in June. Approval of water safety is pending. Parking is planned for 46 cars, with 2 handicapped spots. The CA's "sponsorship" of this park will involve making inspections at least 4 times per year to ensure there are no safety hazards and that ongoing maintenance and sanitation are satisfactory. Roger stated that the city has historically done an excellent job maintaining its parks. A sign is expected stating that the Venetian CA adopted this park. On Laurel Rd widening, Taras felt things were progressing on schedule and that some activity should begin this summer.

Seminars: Mark stated that the only remaining seminar for this season is the June 16 NFL seminar, at which plenty of time will be allowed for Q&A in an informal setting. The seminars team is already planning for the next season, with a sense that the past season was a bit too busy with 20 events. The team reviewed over 25 suggestions from residents and board members. Classic events like Bike-a-Rama and Shredfest are a given. A candidate forum is planned for Oct. 6, although questions remain as to the number of candidates. Steve pointed out that all seats are currently unopposed, and questioned whether we would hold a seminar in that case. To be determined. TBD as well is whether we will hire an outside vendor for the forum audiovisual or use in-house services led by John. Work is ongoing to improve in-house capability. One new topic for next year is an April talk from the nearby County Mosquito Control board. Ten dates are already locked in for next year, and field trips are being considered. The Community Forum date is set for 3/15/27.

Treasurer's report: Salli stated that our cash position was approx. $63K at end of April. The past 2 months have seen net losses totaling approx. $2,750, but our YTD revenue remains $1,400. Interest income is expected to increase as CDs mature. We received a refund of $860 and will see a reduction of approx. $100 per month as a result of insurance adjustments Salli has pursued. She addressed a recommendation from Roger as to whether it would benefit the CA to hire an attorney specializing in insurance to advise us on appropriate protection vs. risks. Following extended discussion, there was a lack of consensus to pursue this proposal in the short term. Tom proposed that he and Mark confer to decide what the prospective source and cost of such legal advice would be and that we may reconsider this topic in 2 or 3 months. Tom later offered to contact Mary Rau-Foster and also asked Salli to recirculate our current policies to board members for review.

Membership Report: Sharon reported a 62.9% membership rate, 1.9% ahead of same month last year. She continues to emphasize membership to new residents with good results. She is evaluating a membership management software system first suggested by Roger, with hopes that the cost will be affordable.

CA Retreat Critique: John gave a very brief summary of the May 12 retreat. Four projects were identified and initial teams and leaders were named for each. A written summary was issued May 15 so details will not be repeated here. We clarified that Salli would lead the Risk Management team and that she would contact Mary regarding her willingness to participate. He emphasized that success with these projects will depend largely on our leaders maintaining board focus on these projects by calling for periodic progress reports as appropriate to the project. Roger suggested that a summary of the retreat be sent to CA members. After discussion we agreed that John would submit a brief summary for the June *Parcels*, with a link to the full report on our website.

Board Member Comments:

- Roger reviewed the short list of board member responsibilities that he recently drafted. There was consensus that this was a reasonable and useful document that would be added to CA Policies. Tom questioned whether these responsibilities might be better added to our bylaws, but after more discussion we resolved to maintain it as a policy. In general, bylaws should contain semi-permanent requirements regarding the basic structure of our organization, while policies and procedures may be more easily revised as new conditions arise. John will add Roger's document to polices with a revised title suggested by Steve, "*Duties* of CA Board Members".
- Mark brought up the question of who would take photos and write reports of seminars and other events following Joe's retirement. We agreed several people would need to be involved. Until further notice, we agreed that each seminar moderator would assign someone to take photos and would produce a brief summary of the event for forwarding to John (and later Karl) for posting to our website. Tom recommended that photos be taken landscape style rather than portrait, for better fit in publications and the website. Roger stressed the need to capture seminar attendees looking active and interested, and to include both men and women.
- Tom asked everyone to consult their schedules for summer meetings to ensure we will have a quorum.
- Salli asked John to determine if Basecamp could be used as a source for QA archives – he will inquire.
- Taras has made an inquiry to Wal-Mart regarding their community donation program and will advise us again if it is found appropriate for supporting HRT or other programs.
- Roger recommended that we consider sponsoring (supporting) the excellent work of Tidewell Hospice in some manner, and in particular a program called Campaign United that helps veterans with counseling services and financial support. Other board members felt that although Tidewell was an excellent organization, the CA should not align itself with a particular charity.
- John commented on recent discussions about the YDM logo and trends in donations. Recent donations have shown a significant drop-off from the initial launch months, and that donations now appear closely correlated with time of dues payment (very low the past 2 months). He has not been able to demonstrate any significant "bump" in donations following YDM appeals in *Parcels* or after major events. The Revenue team strives to find the sweet spot whereby residents remain aware of the need for donations but are not pestered about it. That said, donations remain a significant adjunct to dues revenue, contributing 31% of YTD revenue vs. 68% for dues. John will include a short appeal at the June 1 HRT meeting.

Next Meeting: Our next regular board meeting is on **Monday, June 15, 2026** at the River Club at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary