

**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 June 15, 2026**

Board Members attending:

Mark Faford – Co-President
Tom Jones – Co-President
Sharon George – Membership Chair
Dr. Steve Hefler
Roger Effron
Darlene Schimberg
Karl Seidel

Unable to Attend

Terry Leary
John Manoush

On Zoom

Taras Kowalczyn - Exec. VP
Salli Duncan - Treasurer

Guests present: There were 4 resident guests attending in person and 1 attendee on Zoom.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

Comments from POA Liaison: Barbara Silkworth addressed the issue of minors operating golf carts, noting that it remains a serious concern but is difficult to enforce. She reviewed the current guidelines and reported that the same problems persist. The CDD is exploring a decal program for golf carts to help identify them, discourage violations, and potentially support enforcement measures such as fines or suspension of River Club privileges. The POA also plans to renew its efforts to seek replacement of trees removed from residents' properties.

Public Comment: A new resident asked about the responsibilities of each Board and how timelines and events are communicated. Sharon referred him to the Resident Directory, which contains much of this information. Mark added that serving on a committee is one of the best ways to get involved and noted that both the CDD and POA are looking for volunteers.

Hurricane Response Team (HRT): In Mary's absence, Steve Hefler presented her report. For the 2026 season, 45 team members renewed and 5 new members joined. The online application has helped attract new members and retain current ones. **Meeting Highlights:** The annual hurricane preparation meeting was well attended and featured Frank Giddens, Chief of the Venice Fire Department; James Clinch, newly appointed City Manager; and Sandra Tapfumaneyi, Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief. Gratitude plaques were awarded to all 3. A video of the meeting is available on the website's "Hurricane Corner". **Training and Operations:** A training session was part of the June 1 meeting and a makeup was held on June 8. Another makeup is planned for July, with the date still to be determined. The CDD has agreed to install an additional speed bump at the guard-gate side of the Venetian entrance to help reduce speeding.

Community Outreach and Updates: The HRT team staffed a table at the recent Venice Hurricane Expo and will also distribute the Venice hurricane guides at the Farmer's Market this Saturday. TV meteorologist Bob Harrigan has agreed to return for another presentation later this year, likely in August. The HRT manual is currently under review and any updates will be publicized.

Secretary's report: The previously distributed minutes for May 18 were unanimously approved.

External Affairs: Tom reported there were no new developments, however site & development plans have been filed for a Texas Roadhouse and Chick-fil-A as new restaurants in Venice Crossings Shopping Center. He indicated that the new Northeast Venice Park, which was proposed in 2020, is now open. Taras added that the Laurel Road widening project is right on schedule.

Seminars: Mark indicated that we are looking to pare down the events from last year. We had 20 events which we all felt was too many. We are looking at having at least 15 and trying to have the topics appeal to the majority of our residents. He listed several events which have been confirmed and will be included in the publication of "Knock Your Socks Off." Mark indicated that he and Darlene were going to be going to INStride on June 16th. This is an equestrian based ranch which caters to people with disabilities, anxiety or depression. They will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report: Salli reported that our cash position was \$62,820 at end of May, which is up over \$4k from a year ago, and she will be renewing our CD at a rate to be determined. There have been some changes in the premiums of our insurance policies resulting in a slight decrease to our monthly expense. She will talk to Roger regarding the open sponsorships for Parcels.

Membership Report: Sharon reported that membership stands at 63%, up from 61% in June 2025. Among new owners, 41.4% have joined. She has focused on outreach to new owners and to current owners whose memberships have recently expired or are about to expire. Sharon said another resident orientation is planned for October or November and recommended developing outreach to realtors. Sharon noted that fewer homes are currently for sale in the Venetian, with many residents making lateral moves within the community to larger or smaller homes. Karl was asked to explore ways to better automate the membership renewal program.

New Park Opening: Mark attended along with Roger and Steve. They handed out flyers at the event and many city officials were there. There are 46 parking spots, pickleball courts, two dog parks, playgrounds, a walking path and the first sandhill crane structure in the City of Venice. We have adopted the park for 1 year and we will review the area quarterly to make sure it is clean and safe. This park is a major enhancement for the NE Venice area.

Website Management: Karl attended the meeting. He is just getting started on getting to know our needs and website with more to come at the next meeting. In the meantime, John has done an excellent job of keeping things updated on the website.

Post Retreat update: Taras - We need to improve our visibility both internally and externally. Park opening is one form of recognition for us that will have an effect both on the Community (internally) and externally with the City Representatives. We need to cultivate our options and reap the long-term benefits. Parcels is a great source we have used to touch many in a very positive manner. Steve - Work with the External Affairs Committee for a list of people on the City Council, etc. and understand the roles that they play in our daily government. Roger - Mark and Tom should send a letter to the City Council expressing their appreciation for completing the park in our area. Show them that we recognize this as a big achievement for North Venice.

Board Member Comments: Salli mentioned risk management and thanked Mary Rau Foster for all her assistance on the worksheet. The committee meeting is scheduled for June 30th at 10am. Karl is working on website protocol and guidelines. Roger thanked the volunteers in advance for staffing the booth this Saturday.

Next Meeting: Our next regular board meeting is on **Monday, July 20, 2026** at the River Club at 10am.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jones and Darlene Schimberg, acting secretaries