

**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 July 20, 2026**

Board Members attending:

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

Unable to Attend

Taras Kowalczyn,
Exec. VP
Terry Leary

On Zoom

John Manoush - Secretary
Salli Duncan - Treasurer
Karl Seidel – Webmaster

Guests present: There were 3 resident guests attending in person and 1-3 resident attendees on Zoom.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Comments from POA Liaison: Barbara Silkworth announced that POA treasurer Jeff Connors recently resigned and that Truman is acting treasurer. JoAnne Crawne-Brewer has been welcomed back to VGRC as POA General Manager. Barbara again stressed the issue of golf cart safety (particularly minors driving). The POA has issued a community-wide alert and the possibility of fines for violations. Roger raised the issue of getting residents to volunteer for committee assignments. Barbara observed that interest in serving tended to increase when controversial issues were present, and currently there are few. Roger offered Barbara space to write a *Parcels* article on current challenges. Watering violations also remain an issue. Kim Lennard has recently begun work as a part-time compliance officer for the POA.

Public Comment: None

Hurricane Response Team (HRT): Mary stated that the volunteer count stands at 54 and that she would like to have new photos of volunteers taken. She participated in a meeting of Salli's Risk Management team and felt it was an excellent session that helped organize a more comprehensive approach to this topic. Work on updating the HRT manual is ongoing and should be ready for re-issue in 2027. T-shirts were donated and no other equipment is currently needed. Mary is trying to get Bob Harrigan to come again and wants to present him with an appreciation gift.

Secretary's report: The previously distributed minutes for June 15 were unanimously approved.

External Affairs: Tom briefly reviewed what is known about businesses expected to come to the new shopping center across from the Laurel/Nokomis school. Four restaurants and a car service business have filed site & development plans with the city. A storage facility is planned behind the current Dollar Store on Laurel Road, and another on Border Road. Darlene commented that area residents already appear to be making use of the new Northeast Park. Mark stated that additional fencing is planned for the border between the park and an adjacent stormwater pond. He will be handling the coordination of the CA's responsibility to conduct required quarterly inspections and complete a city-required report. Darlene and others commented on the CDD election, in which both Byron and Cheryl will be running unopposed, and that the board will make an appointment to serve the remainder of Rich Goodman's seat following his recent resignation. This would mean there will be no need for a CDD candidate forum. Roger felt that involving residents (other than board members) in CA events would be desirable.

Seminars: Mark and the team are finalizing a schedule of 16 events so far. In early 2027, an orthopedic surgeon will speak about sports injuries and a Mote representative will speak about sea turtle biology. A candidate forum is planned this Fall for City Council (3 candidates for one seat), while the need for a CDD forum appears unlikely, as stated earlier.

Treasurer's report: Salli reported that interest income is beginning to help our bottom line thanks to CD and money market investments she has made. Mark noted that interest income has been \$700 greater than prior year. Salli reversed a \$450 payment that had been entered for our 2025 Shredfest, since no invoice was ever received from the city. Current cash balance is \$63,000 and our net revenue through July reflects a loss of \$740. She has moved \$41,000 into a 7-month CD at 3.7% that matures in January, 2027.

Risk Mitigation Committee: Under Salli's leadership, a committee that included Mary Rau-Foster, Mark, Darlene and Taras met on June 30. This was a project identified at our May 2026 retreat. The group categorized our various events with an eye toward identifying specific risks and began identifying risk mitigation strategies. There was discussion about risks related to SharpFest and ShredFest.

Membership: Sharon reported that we are up 2% year over last July. The person at the CDD office from whom Sharon obtained new resident information has resigned, creating some difficulty in the short run. Darlene will try to work with Keith Livermore on a new resident list for Sharon. New resident orientation is planned for October 1, 2026.

Revenue Team Report: John referred to a chart he had distributed to the board a week ago that showed trends in donations by month. He plans on updating this quarterly. The YDM program had a very strong kickoff month in September of 2025, followed by more modest monthly donations, particularly starting in February 2026. Despite this, there were donations for every month except May. There is some correlation with dues payments, since many residents make donations at time of dues payment. He concluded that the program has succeeded in its goal of erasing the regular deficits that the CA had experienced, and advised that we consider ways to strengthen the program through planned "campaigns" that will remind residents of the importance of donations to the success of the CA. We did not experience a hoped-for uptick in donations following *Parcels* articles about YDM or simple mentions of the program at some seminars, such as HRT. He will call a meeting of the Revenue Team in September to study these trends and consider the need for changes. John clarified this his report considers only YDM donations and does not include *Parcels* sponsorships or donations at ShredFest.

Featured Photo website initiative: John reported on planning that began in June for a program that should stimulate more engagement with our website. With advice and assistance from Karl and Roger, he has shared a program description and guidelines with board members. The idea is simple enough: residents would email photos taken locally to our website email address and John would select one to appear at the top of our home page each month. "Featured Photo" is a working title but we have not settled on the perfect name and would welcome ideas. Rollout is likely in September. The idea was positively received by board members.

Board Member Comments: Karl is studying ways to make navigation of our website clearer and more direct, but no changes have occurred to date. Mark asked Karl to make sure the registration for events is properly working for those events that require it. Karl has discussed updating our app with Joe Santucci so that member dues could be tied to time of payment rather than the calendar year. Joe has been reluctant because he would need CA authorization to bill for this. Sharon offered to contact Joe. Steve asked that board members help the seminars program by entering their availability to assist on a spreadsheet he will issue at the start of next season, and Darlene offered to help with this effort.

Board Member Comments (con'd): John updated the board on website management since Joe Browne left our board. It has not been possible to maintain the nearly continual updating that Joe performed, but he and Karl are gradually improving their communication to reduce lag time. We will continue to rely on seminar organizers to ensure that photos are taken and reports are written after events. Aside from the Featured Photo project, it has not yet been possible to pursue other ideas discussed at our retreat. He reminded board members that very few have submitted photos to go with their bios on our website.

Next Meeting: Our next regular board meeting is on **Monday, August 17, 2026** at the River Club at 10 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary, with assistance from Tom Jones and Darlene Schimberg.