

**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 August 17, 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

Terry Leary
Karl Seidel -
Webmaster

On Zoom

John Manoush - Secretary
Salli Duncan - Treasurer
Taras Kowalczyn -
Exec. VP

Guests present: There were 3 resident guests attending in person and 2-5 resident attendees on Zoom.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Comments from POA Liaison: None

Public Comment: None

Hurricane Response Team (HRT): Mary confirmed that meteorologist Bob Harrigan will speak here on Aug. 31 at 2:00. She has invited our police and fire chiefs, town officials and SMH representatives. Publicity will include an e-blast and posted signs. **Reach Out program:** Sharon has supplied a list of new residents as well as widowed residents that Mary will contact about this program. A modest speed bump at the entrance has been installed to reduce the risk to HRT members and others.

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

External Affairs: Tom updated us on what is known of plans for the Venice Crossings shopping center, whose anchor stores will be Wal-Mart and Home Depot. Several restaurants, a hotel, a gas/service station and a hotel will soon locate in or near that development. Taras commented on a re-bidding process that is ongoing for the Laurel Rd. widening. Due to significantly increased costs after the project was budgeted, he feels that the project may be delayed or features cut. Possible cuts include the traffic light at Jacaranda, a wide sidewalk/trail on the south side, a landscaped center aisle, or others. If the widening is not completed by 2028, we may face traffic problems, but it is premature for us to take any action until more facts are known. Steve attended an August 12 presentation in Venice about the state level proposal to raise the homestead property exemption. Town officials are concerned because its passage would leave Venice and other towns struggling to make up the local tax shortfall. Roger informed us of support from Congressman Steube for asking the Army Corps of Engineers to fund repair of Venice's South Jetty, which remains closed due to storm damage. He recommended the CA support this effort. There was discussion but no immediate agreement on whether or how to do this.

Treasurer's report: Salli reported that our cash position is approx. \$62K. Revenue has been falling slightly below expenses for each month from March through July, with a \$2,454 YTD loss. Interest Income YTD is \$758. CDs: 1) \$10,000 invested for 13 months at 2.65% matures 4-30-27; 2) \$41,000 invested for 7 months at 3.7% matures 1-13-27.

Current accounting method is cash basis with the exception of insurance. It is suggested that we transition insurance to cash basis upon renewal to gain consistency.

Membership: Sharon reported that per cent membership is little changed from prior month. She has recently obtained a list of new residents and has contacted them by email, resulting in 3 new members, 2 of whom also made donations. 336 memberships are due to expire this year, and she will be contacting those residents to encourage renewing. Taras inquired about the possibility of automatic renewals. Sharon explained that a

great deal of work would be needed to implement this due to the different methods residents use to pay dues. Homeowner orientation is planned for mid-October, with the date to be announced.

CA Logo/tagline committee report: Roger led a work group that included Salli, Darlene and John. They considered several variations of both the logo and the wording. A primary goal was to eliminate or update the current, “Advocating for Our Community” tag, since it is no longer our primary focus. He briefly explained the process and handed out a graphic of the proposed logo. Although several alternatives were considered, the existing artwork of herons, water and sunset was retained because it is simple and recognizable to residents. There were suggestions about possible alterations but the board eventually decided to accept the committee’s proposal as is. Roger also offered to look into a method for displaying the logo on the podium during public meetings. Mark made a motion that we observe a limit of \$500 for the cost of modifying stationary and displays affected by this change, and it was unanimously approved. A graphic of the new logo is shown at the end of these minutes.

Seminars: Mark and the team finalized the events for the 2026-27 season, with 16 events planned (compared to 20 last year). All “traditional” events will be held, but most of the other events are new. Steve and Darlene will circulate a volunteer sign up sheet to all board members shortly. There was discussion about the candidate forum, planned for Tuesday, Oct 6 at 10:00. There will be no CDD candidates due to lack of contested seats, but we do expect two contested seats out of five for the city council. Mark polled the board on whether the CA should even hold a candidate forum, given the lack of any Venetian office candidate and our reduced emphasis on “advocating”. The consensus was that there *should* be a forum, with the format to be determined by a committee consisting of Mark, Darlene, John, Salli, and Sharon, with Roger as an advisor. [Sharon later withdrew due to a travel conflict]. We plan to record the forum and make it available through our website. There was more discussion about the level of resident interest in the homestead exemption amendment on November’s ballot.

Board Member Comments: John announced that a Revenue Team meeting was planned for Sept. 15 to consider trends in our revenue and the possibility of soliciting advertising in *Parcels*. The “Your Featured Photo” initiative is locked and loaded, with an announcement planned for the September *Parcels* coordinated with an e-blast to residents. Salli reported on the interest rates being earned on our CD’s. Sharon asked all board members for feedback on the Wall of Something with an eye toward increasing its appeal to residents. Steve questioned whether other communities, such as Toscana Isles, should be invited to our candidate forum, but Roger and other board members felt this would be inappropriate. Roger reported that the percentage of non-members opening *Parcels* has increased from a historical level of 69% to a current rate of 81%, compared to 90% for members. He expressed disappointment at the lack of response to recent requests for resident involvement, in this case for a webmaster and photographer. Mark mentioned that flag placement for Labor Day would be done on Sept. 4. Mark is coordinating the initial NE Park cleanup for Aug. 19, with about 6 volunteers expected, including Tom.

Next Meeting: Our next regular board meeting is on **Monday, Sept. 21, 2026** at the River Club at 10 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Manoush, secretary

