

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
VGRC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

DECEMBER 20, 2016

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President
Roger Efron – Exec VP
Tom Jones – Secretary
Diane Maskol - VP
Diane Bazlamit
Bob Samuels
Fred Williamson

Call to order: John Moeckel, President, called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, said that the draft minutes from the November meeting were previously circulated for comments and revisions via e-mail. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, was absent. His report shows that we have \$80,676 in our general account and savings plus \$37,865 in a landscape buffering reserve.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 - I-75 BOLD landscaping project: John Moeckel said that the project is well underway and the budget has been increased to \$1.6 million with leftover funds.

2. External Affairs issue #2 –Hospital expansion in Venice: John Moeckel said that CHS (Venice Hospital owner) must file an appeal against Sarasota Memorial by Dec. 27. Our position should be to wait and see how this proceeds.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Sheriff's maintenance facility: John Moeckel said the County commissioners thanked us for our input, which included suggested buffering and architecture stipulations. NACA group is still objecting, saying they weren't adequately informed.

4. External Affairs issue #4 – Venice parks and Ajax property: John Moeckel reported on the parks workshop held with the City Council on Dec. 12. The consultant’s report was reviewed and comments from the public were heard. John Moeckel, Jerry Jasper, Bill Dwyer and Tom Jones met with Council member Rich Cautero on Dec. 15 to discuss plans for parks in Venice. John and Jerry met with the Mayor today on plans for the Ajax site. There have been many suggestions for the Ajax site, including pickelball courts, a dog park, and kayak access to the reservoir. John M. said he would look into the cost of a soundwall around the Titan concrete plant, and the Association could possibly contribute to this project.

5. External Affairs issue #5 – Workforce housing: John Moeckel and Tom Long attended a workshop as part of the Comprehensive Plan revision. The process defined different levels of housing cost and income needed to live there. Our attention is to which properties are being considered for this housing. More neighborhood meetings by the City are being planned.

6. External Affairs issue #6 – Crush-It plant: John Moeckel said the City’s Planning Commission discussed the phase 1 site development plan today and approved it. The height of the berm that will surround the noise-making equipment is not yet determined.

7. Membership: Roger Effron reported that membership is at 626 with a goal of 750. He complimented Bill Dwyer (absent today) for his leadership and how he engages residents at every opportunity to join. Roger encouraged the rest of the board to do the same.

8. Marketing activities: Roger Effron reviewed how the Wall of Something is receiving positive feedback with increasing number of views and listings. Upcoming seminars are Bike-O-Rama on Jan. 7 and Tidewell Hospice on Jan. 9. The town Hall meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27 and the board discussed what speakers to invite and subjects to cover. A member suggested that new American flags are needed for our community displays, and the board unanimously approved spending \$500 to purchase more flags.

13. Other discussions: A discussion took place on possibly relocating or enlarging the American flagpole at the front entrance to allow flying a larger flag. There was support for this but concern about blocking a view, so this subject will be included in a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24 at 2:30pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary