

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

JANUARY 24, 2017

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President
Roger Effron – Exec VP
Carol Barbieri – VP
Fred Baughman - Treasurer
Tom Jones – Secretary
Tom Long
Diane Bazlamit
Bob Samuels

Guests:

Jerry Jasper

Call to order: John Moeckel, President, called the meeting to order at 2:32pm.

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

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, gave his report with a proposed budget for 2017 of \$18,625 compared to \$15,687 for 2016. This budget was unanimously approved. He said we have \$82,965 in our general account and savings plus \$37,865 in a landscape buffering reserve. There was a discussion on how to present our financial surplus to members and others and the possible funding of events, community improvements, or charities.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 – Venice parks and Ajax property: Jerry Jasper reported on the City Council's discussion on where to locate the pumping station on this property. Jerry has asked Council member Rich Cautero to be included as a member of a stakeholders group to be established to determine how to use this new City property. Jerry said that the master parks plan is being reviewed, and it says there's a need for a park in NE Venice but no specific location. Jerry said he asked Rich to try to get a location agreed on by the Council.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – Venice Comprehensive Plan: Jerry Jasper said the Plan's draft is now on the City website, and there will be 3 meetings in late January at the community center to present the plan to the public.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Portofino project: Jerry Jasper reviewed that he, John Moeckel, and Tom Jones are part of the advisory committee (along with 3 residents of Willow Chase) who met with John Peshkin (land developer) and representatives of Zilber Inc. (apartment developer) on a proposed apartment complex of 272 units in 8 buildings on the Portofino site (corner of Laurel Toad and Knights Trail). The committee has questions and concerns for the developer regarding the roof and siding material, where asphalt shingles and siding are shown on a proposed drawing. A Zilber manager has replied that they will review this issue and reply back.

4. External Affairs issue #4 –Hospital expansion in Venice: John Moeckel said that the CEOs of Venice Hospital and Sarasota Memorial will attend and speak at our Town Hall meeting on February 27.

5. External Affairs issue #4 – Venice traffic advisory board: Carol Barbieri reported that this board, of which she is a member, feels they have done all they can, and at their next meeting in April, they will decide whether to continue. The Venice trolley is operating through April, and there is debate in the City Council on where to route it in the downtown and beach area.

6. Town Hall meeting: Roger Effron said there was a good return for the survey on what topics to include in the THM agenda. The top vote getters were: future land development, hospitals, Parks, 5 year look-ahead for Venice, and the Lennar purchase of WCI. There was a discussion on these subjects and others and who to invite to speak on them. It was decided to move up the start time to 5pm, with background music starting at 4:30pm. After the speakers, there will be a short break and then questions will be taken from the audience.

7. Membership: Roger Effron reported, in Bill Dwyer's absence, that membership is now at 694 with a goal of 750. There was a discussion on how to indicate in our database that houses are for sale or residents have passed away.

8. Marketing activities: Roger Effron said that the Wall of Something is doing well with an increasing number of posts. Categories have been added and a statement is included that “membership is not required.” Tom Long will check our liability insurance policy to see if we have coverage of any liability issue resulting from postings on The Wall. In February, seminars will be on gardening and hearing, and Shredfest is also scheduled.

9. Annual meeting: John Moeckel said that 6 board seats are up for election this year: Tom Jones, Tom Long, Diane Bazlamit, Bob Samuels, Bill Dwyer, and Fred Baughman. There was a discussion on a nominating committee and how to solicit or encourage others to consider running for these positions.

10. Association accomplishments for 2016: John Moeckel led a review of our accomplishments for the past year: the website Wall of Something, the BOLD project, seminars, Town Hall meeting, parks, adopt-a-road, and Bike-O-Rama.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary