

MINUTES For The REGULAR MEETING
Of The BOARD OF DIRECTORS Of
VGRC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

At The RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Efron – Exec VP
Jerry Jasper – VP
Diane Maskol – VP
Tom Jones - secretary
Bob Samuels
Carol Barbieri
Jerry Flood
Marge Chandler

1. Roger Efron, Executive VP, called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

2. Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, said the minutes from the August 25 board meeting were previously circulated via e-mail. They were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, treasurer, was absent. He circulated the financial report before this meeting and we are currently holding \$61,442 in general funds and \$37,865 in a restricted account.

New Business

4. Board retreat: The retreat has been set for November 6th from 2:30 – 5:30pm. This is a revised date due to some schedule conflicts.

5. Membership: Carol Barbieri gave this report in Bill Dwyer's absence. The plan is to send letters in late October to 3 categories of residents: (1) those who have never joined (2) those who paid for 2014 and will receive a colored invoice as a renewal reminder (3) a thank you to those who have paid for 2015, including multi-year members. This last group will receive a VGRCCA magnet. All VGRCCA events and seminars will have a membership table to collect dues and we will continue including reminders and membership forms in *Parcels*. Roger Efron presented final cost figures for the magnets, which will cost \$.38 for 1,000 plus an artwork charge of \$75. There was unanimous approval to increase the expenditure for this program to \$500 from \$400 as agreed to at the previous board meeting.

6. Hurricane Readiness Team: Roger Effron reported that the Venice Fire Dept. is ready and anxious to proceed with the first group training, and he is planning for a session in October. It is not certain if we will be able to apply for a funding grant by November 1st.

7. Candidate Forum: Tom Jones said that the Forum is scheduled on October 13th from 6-7pm at the River Club. The two City Council candidates and the two VCDD candidates have accepted invitations to participate. Each candidate will be give 3 minutes to present their qualifications and positions, and then questions will be taken from the audience. The Council candidates will be first, then the VCDD. It was decided not to invite Kit McKeon and Harry Orenstein to participate because they are running unopposed for their respective offices.

8. Outside the Gate Issues: Jerry Jasper reported on these issues:

- An FDOT communication placed the Laurel Road interchange BOLD project as the #1 priority in this district. However no funding will be available until 2016 at the earliest.
- A CRA (Community Redevelopment Authority) is being considered by the City of Venice to spend property tax funds for local redevelopment. Some County Commissioners are opposed to the particular CRA under consideration and have suggested that County property tax funds, needed if the CRA is to be at all meaningful, may not be available. Diane Maskol and Carol Barbieri will work with Jerry on this.
- The question of a feasibility study to determine if a merger of the Venice Fire Dept. with the County makes financial sense was voted down in a Council workshop. It was decided that the Council needs to take this action in a regular meeting, so the vote has been rescheduled for an upcoming meeting.
- Villages of Milano (off Jacaranda Blvd.) – site development for the first 150 units in the first building stage have been approved by the Planning Commission. At Toscana Isles, the first 200 units have received site development approval. Jerry explained that the silt fence and tree removal along the bordering gravel road next to Venetian fairway #5 is part of this development.
- The status of the “yellow house” on Laurel Road (near CVS) – Jerry will write letters from the Board to the City and County asking for updates on the intentions, zoning, and permits of this house which has become an eyesore.

9. Future Seminars: Roger Effron said these seminars are planned and scheduled with the River Club with the board member in charge of the event:

- Wills and trusts – Jerry Flood
- Drugs in your medicine cabinet –Marge Chandler with Dr. Jeff Freitag
- My achin’ back – Carol Barbieri
- Dementia – Roger
- Bike-O-Rama – Bill Dwyer

10. Board member resignation: Roger Effron reported that Dan Bates has resigned from the board due to work conflicts. There was discussion on how to find a replacement and the consensus was to not put out a general broadcast to the community. Roger will send an e-mail to board members asking for the names of possible candidates.

11. Website: Carol Barbieri and Jerry Jasper reported that there have been some “spam” replies to the new website section called “Common Interests” and a solution to this problem is being investigated. Also, there is now an expanded Community Calendar on the site with includes a schedule of neighborhood association meetings.

12. Board member comments: Jerry Jasper brought up the subject of how to handle contact by board members with the City or County officials when it is in opposition to a position taken by board vote. It was decided to table this discussion until our October meeting when John Moeckel and other members are present.

13. Next board meeting: Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm on September 23, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary