

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

OCTOBER 28, 2014

At The RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President
Jerry Jasper – VP
Diane Maskol – VP
Bill Dwyer – VP
Fred Baughman – Treasurer
Tom Jones – Secretary
Bob Samuels
Carol Barbieri
Terry BeCraft
Marge Chandler
Bill Tvenstrup

Other Venetian homeowners attending:

Constantin Petrescu
Gary & Maureen Barnes
Bob & Trish Monaco
Dave Hough
Jen & Steve Hinkle
Larry & Nancy Babyak

Others attending:

Vince Hafeli – Ajax Paving

1. John Moeckel, President, called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

2. Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, was absent at the start of the meeting. The minutes from the September 23rd board meeting are not completed and will be sent out at a later date.

3. Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, treasurer, circulated the financial report before this meeting and we are currently holding \$63,367 in general funds and \$37,865 in a restricted account. Revenue to date is \$14,342 and expenditures are \$8,338.

New Business

4. Noise issue from industrial area north of VG&RC: Constantin Petrescu, who lives at 326 Martellago Drive, attended the meeting and presented a letter to the Board outlining two issues of concern to him.

4a: Constantin's first issue was to ask for the Board's support for the installation of lights and a fountain on the entrance monument to Martellago Way north of Veneto Blvd., similar to what exists to Martellago Drive going south from Veneto.

4b: Constantin's second issue was a complaint about noise coming from the industrial plants immediately to the north of VG&RC. He requested the support of the Board for action by the City and County to force a reduction of the noise coming from Ajax Paving, Titan America, and Preferred Materials, and to write a letter to the Venice mayor to request this action. He said Venice Mayor Holic advised him to seek the assistance of the VGRCCA instead of making excessive calls to Venice police. He asked that the board propose that the City and County reduce the permitted sound levels and also modify the pre-annexation agreement to reduce allowable operations from 6 days per week to 5. He also asked that the board hire a sound consulting company to study and determine the best sound reducing solution.

4a discussion: Jerry Jasper replied to this question by stating that the existing lights and fountain were installed by the developer, WCI. This is not an area that the VGRCCA is involved in. The VCDD board would have to decide to change or improve the existing monuments with additional features.

4b discussion: Jerry Jasper discussed the existing City and County noise ordinances and said that the road materials companies are operating in compliance with the noise regulations. He said the pre-annexation agreement can't be changed these without agreement of the companies who were part of the annexation.

Vine Hafeli, Ajax general manager, said his company started in their current location in 1998, well before WCI began building homes at the VG&RC. He said Ajax put a lot of effort and thousands of dollars into reducing their noise by using "white noise" backup alarms and by muffling the handling equipment. They want to be good neighbors with the VG&RC. Also, his company is doing very little night-time operation. He said complaints go up when cooler weather comes and residents open their windows. He asked that one individual represent all dissatisfied Venetian homeowners to make his job easier.

John Moeckel said that the area was designated as a PID (Planned Industrial Development). He said that things have improved since Venice Minerals finished excavating the pit and causing heavy dust to blow south over the nearby homes. Venetian residents were able to get restrictions put in place on how the Venice Minerals site can be developed in the future.

There was further discussion on the history of County and City involvement and oversight of the area and how WCI was allowed to construct a housing development in such close proximity to this industrial site. Venice Minerals and Ajax Paving have both contributed funds to buffer the landscape between them and the Venetian. Other suggestions were to determine if the Venice noise ordinance is less restrictive or enforced more leniently than nearby communities.

Constantin asked for the Board's support to pursue action by the City. Members of the board questioned him as to what more can be done under existing laws and zoning to reduce the noise. Constantin asked for the VGRCCA to pay for a sound engineering study at the source of the noise.

The consensus of the Board was to consider possible actions at a later board meeting and, in the meantime, solicit comments and suggestions from other Venetians on the effects of the noise.

5. Board Contacts with City & County officials as private individuals: This issue has come up in the past when a contentious issue has split the Board. Examples are the zoning change for the Portofino Project and the issue of combining the Venice Fire Dept. with Sarasota County Fire Dept. There was agreement that members should not have to give up their right of dissent, however there can be confusion among City or County officials as to what the message is from the VG&RC. The consensus was that we should go case-by-case with issues where the Board does not vote unanimously. Letters from the Board will be signed as being “from the VGRCCA board”, and not by an officer. A discussion at a future Board meeting will determine how members with dissenting views can contact and lobby the City and County.

6. Discussion on special event advertising cards: Diane Maskol said that she feels that it’s a waste of money to print cards to advertise our special events. Roger Effron replied that the printing costs of these cards are low, typically \$20-\$30 per event. Other comments were that some people appreciate the cards as a reminder. A policy should be developed to decide when to print and/or mail flyers. The gate signs and e-mail blasts should be limited to maintain their attention and effectiveness. The event chair should not be restricted as to how to promote an event. Board members agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

7. Membership: Bill Dwyer reported that the paid membership through 2015 or longer is now 342. There are 259 who haven’t renewed for 2015. The membership target is 600+. He will be sending out three different letters in November: (1) a thank you to those who have paid for 2015, including multi-year members; (2) an invoice for renewal to past members; (3) an appeal to those who have never joined. He will work with the Post Office and Print Management to reduce the number of undeliverable mailings. He and Roger Effron will continue to attend the monthly new resident breakfast meetings to solicit new members. We will continue including reminders and membership forms in *Parcels* and all VGRCCA events and seminars will have a membership table to collect dues.

8. “Yellow house” on Laurel Road: Jerry Jasper reported that a letter from the City was sent to the homeowner with a list of required actions.

9. Government committee: Jerry Jasper and John Moeckel will lead a committee that includes Carol Barbieri, Bob Samuels, and Tom Jones. They will keep up communications on issues that develop. The next one is a workshop on November 10th at the River Club where Florida Power will present their request to expand the substation on the south side of Laurel Road just east of the fire station.

10. BOLD landscape project at Laurel Road interchange: John Moeckel reported on this proposed beautification project and said letters of support have been received from local merchants and industry. It appears that at the next MPO meeting on December 15th that FDOT may give its approval for our Laurel Rd. interchange to be given funding for a Bold Landscaping project as a top priority. As an aside, John M. asked John Ask, President of NACA (Nokomis Area Civic Association), to write a letter of support, which he did. John M. will be meeting with John Ask to further build our relationship with him and the organization. NACA represents some 13,000 homes in the unincorporated area of Nokomis. John M. and Jerry Jasper requested some 12 other businesses, builders, and HOA’s, City of Venice and the Sarasota County commissioners to write letters of support, which they did. This effort was the catalyst that caused FDOT to give Laurel Road the top priority.

11. New database: Fred Baughman said he is working with Joe Santucci on options for a new database to hold Association membership and mailing data.

12. Board retreat: The retreat has been set for November 6th from 2:30 – 5:30pm in the meeting room at the fire station. Following the meeting, the group will have dinner together at the golf club (this will be an individual expense).

13. Next board meeting: Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm on October 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary