

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

NOVEMBER 25, 2014

At VENICE FIRE STATION #3

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

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

1. John Moeckel, President, called the meeting to order at 3:26pm.

2. Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, said the minutes from the previous board meetings on 9/23 and 10/28 plus the special meeting on 10/13 were circulated via e-mail. They were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, treasurer, circulated the financial report before this meeting and we are currently holding \$64,952 in general funds and \$37,865 in a restricted account. He has added a note to the financial report with further details on what the reserve account (\$30,000 of the general funds) can be used for. The website will be updated with this report and information. Fred also said that he felt it would be helpful to have our finances reviewed for tax compliance and to maintain the credibility of our members. A full audit was mentioned as too expensive, however a summary report may be affordable. Fred will discuss the options with Christina Greenstein, an accountant and a VGRCCA member.

New Business

4. Membership Drive: Bill Dwyer reported that the paid membership through 2015 or longer is now 372 plus 41 new/renewals. The recent membership letter had over 200 returned that couldn't be forwarded. This was despite Bill's work with the Postmaster to cull names of renters, those who have moved, and bank owned houses. The returns are frustrating because many owners have the Venetian as their tax bill address, and no forwarding address. Bill and a hired assistant will correct mailings where we have a northern address, and these can be re-mailed at no additional cost. We will need to use e-mail for those we are unable to use regular mail.

5. Policies for Event Speakers: There was a discussion of what and how much to give to those who are speakers at our seminars. Fred Baughman circulated a suggested policy #1 which would allow up to \$100 as an honorarium to speakers or groups. For those who can't accept this, they could designate a charity to receive it. Diane Maskol said she felt this amount was unnecessary, and she suggested that a Tervis Tumbler with the VGRCCA logo would be less costly, easier and just as appreciated. The consensus was to reconsider and investigate the cost of a custom logo item or similar gift. Fred's policy #2 recommended setting a maximum of \$125 per event for publicity expenses. An increase to this amount of \$75 would need officer approval, and more than a \$75 increase would require board approval. The Town Hall meeting and the membership drive are exceptions, with expenses determined by the board. There was unanimous approval of policy #2.

6. Parcels Newsletter Logo: Roger Effron showed 3 graphics with variations of a new design for the Parcels newsletter masthead. He suggested we make a change to keep the newsletter fresh. The board voted for version #3, and Roger will send it to the secretary for use beginning with the January issue.

7. Town Hall Meeting: The annual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at Laurel Nokomis School from 5:30-6:30pm, with entertainment for 30-45 minutes before the start. Roger Effron led a discussion of possible themes and speakers, such as city or county politicians and local developers. We will continue working on the agenda at the next board meeting.

8. Bike-O-Rama: Bill Dwyer said that Bike-O-Rama 2 is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 9am to noon in the River Club parking lot. We will use the same format as last year, with Bicycles International giving free mini-tune-ups. Venice police will attend and offer free helmets for children.

9. E-mail Etiquette: John Moeckel lead a discussion of how we can treat everyone with respect in our e-mail exchanges and used corporate experiences as examples. It was suggested that e-mails be used for compliments and for circulating information. Strong viewpoints and personal criticisms are better handled with a 1-on-1 meeting. There was also a request to limit the number of e-mails sent to the entire board. There was group consensus on this subject.

10. Association Policies: John Moeckel asked what has been done to store and make available any policies that this or previous boards have adopted. An example was the one today on a policy to limit to seminar expenses. John asked everyone to think back on any policies we've established and discuss this further.

11. Proposed Bylaw Revision: There was a discussion of proposed revisions to our Bylaws, as suggested by a subcommittee of Roger Effron, Jerry Flood and Terry BeCraft. Jerry Jasper had some comments on the changes, and with his absence today, this discussion was continued to our next meeting.

12. Future Issue: Roger Effron spoke on a future issue that may involve our board and all Venetians. That is the possibility of the Venice fire and police departments being combined with Sarasota County. Roger favors keeping them under local control, however there were other views expressed and finances to be considered. John Moeckel said he would ask the City manager or the Mayor to meet with the board to discuss the issues and options.

13. Next board meeting: Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm on November 25, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary