

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

JANUARY 27, 2015

At The RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board members in attendance:

John Moeckel
Roger Effron
Jerry Jasper
Bill Dwyer
Fred Baughman
Tom Jones
Marge Chandler
Terry BeCraft
Diane Maskol
Jerry Flood
Bill Tvenstrup

Guest:

Wendy Crisp, Sarasota County

1. Call to Order: John Moeckel, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. He introduced Wendy Crisp, who manages the County's "Keep Sarasota County Beautiful" program. Wendy presented a video program with how the "Adopt a Highway" program works. She explained and answered questions with details on the suggested number of cleanups per year (minimum of 4), the length of roadway (usually 2 miles), what training is involved, and what materials the County provides (t-shirts, gloves, bags, and pickup).

The meeting was briefly adjourned at 3:19pm

John Moeckel called the meeting back to order at 3:20pm.
Guests: Bob & Trish Monaco

2. Adopt a Highway program: There was discussion about committing to do this cleanup program, and there was unanimous approval to do so. It was agreed that we would handle Laurel Road from Knights Trail east to the park on the Myakka River. John asked for a board member to take charge of the program and work with Wendy, and Bill Tvenstrup agreed to do so.

3. Secretary's Report: Tom Jones said that the minutes from our November and December board meetings were circulated for comments. Both were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report: Fred Baughman reported that we have a total in our accounts of \$105,041. Included in this amount is a reserve of \$30,000 and a restricted account for landscape buffering of \$37,865. Fred said he will look into any IRS rule that limits the amount of cash that can be held by a 501(c)(4) organization. After the meeting, he checked on this and received a reply that there is no limit. This information is from Beckie Stoner, specialist with non-profits in the accounting office of Christina Greenstein, VGRCCA member and former treasurer.

5. Visitors' comments: Bob Monaco asked if a newspaper vending machine could be installed somewhere in the community. He was asked to contact the Property Manager about this.

6. Membership: Bill Dwyer, Membership Chair, reported that we are now at 561 members paid through 2015 or longer. Our next push for members will be at the Town Hall Meeting on February 23. Bill will circulate a list to all board members of residents who were previously members and should be contacted.

7. Bike-O-Rama: Bill Dwyer reported that this event was a big success with residents and about 150 bikes were brought in for the free maintenance check. A number of them scheduled tune-ups with Bicycles International, who was pleased to be part of this event for the 2nd year and asked to be involved next year. Venice's police and fire departments also participated.

8. Industrial Site Noise Issue: Jerry Jasper told the board that, per his inquiries, an acoustical engineer is not readily available to do a noise survey and this would be a costly process. The City of Venice is reviewing its noise ordinance, primarily to review the sound from downtown bars and night clubs, however industrial noise may also be part of this.

At a past meeting, Jerry had agreed to compare the Sarasota County noise ordinance to that of the City of Venice as it relates to allowable decibel levels that would apply to the Gene Green Road Industrial Area. Jerry pointed out that the County Code specifies sound level measurements be taken at the source (industrial plant) property line while the City requires it to be measured at the receiving (resident's) property line. The County has a secondary standard for receiving property line limits which are only used when the source property line is not accessible. At Jerry's request, Tom Jenuleson, who lives at 262 Montelluna Drive, took several readings at the industrial plants property lines, both during the day and at night. (Note: Tom has been taking noise level readings at his property line for several years and has coordinated these with the Venice Police Department on several occasions.) The County allowable noise at the source property line is 75dB during the day and 70dB at night. Out of the several readings taken by Tom at the source, the highest reading he recorded was 62 dB at the Titan America property line while the silos were being filled. Tom reported that he never recorded a reading over 60dB at the Ajax property line. Based on these results and previous readings taken at the residential (receiving) property lines, Tom suggested and Jerry agreed that we should not pursue a change in the Venice noise ordinance to incorporate the County limits, as the City allowable limits are more favorable to our situation. The City limits are presently 60dB during the day and 55dB at night at the receiving property line. These are the same limits used by the County at the receiving property line when the source property line is not readily accessible.

(NOTE: per information found on the Industrial Noise Control, Inc. website – normal conversation in a restaurant or office is around 60 dB, while a TV or a vacuum cleaner is about 70 dB. 60dB is half as loud as 70 dB. A garbage disposal is about 80 dB, which is twice as loud as 70dB. There can be possible hearing damage from an 8 hour exposure at 80dB.)

John Moeckel said we have 8 years of time and effort devoted to the noise and dust issues. He said that the pre-annexation agreement for the industrial site cannot be modified without consent of the businesses, which is highly unlikely. He feels that the best strategy is to maintain our relationship with the plants and work with them on noise issues now and in the future. When the sand pile is removed, the buffer function it serves will be gone and the noise could possibly increase. The Venice Minerals site of 53 acres will be subdivided and developed eventually, and there are stipulations in place to limit what industries can go on this site.

Terry BeCraft asked if a letter was going to be sent to the Venice Mayor stating our position, and John Moeckel replied that there was no need to do this since we've already met face-to-face with Mayor Holic and reviewed the issue. Terry made a motion to write and send a letter, however there was no second. Tom Jones made a motion to conclude discussion on this subject with no letter, and it was seconded and passed by a 10-1 vote. Bob Monaco said that his neighborhood group might pursue other actions that may be available to them.

9. Website: Jerry Jasper said he will focus and collect data from those who access the site from Venice locations, and not those from distant areas. Fred Baughman said that he is working with Joe Santucci on some changes to the site, and he requested the board's consent to spend \$1,000 for contract work on an SQL database. There was unanimous approval to do so. Fred said he has backed up his data on Dropbox.com and provided the password to all officers.

10. Town Hall Meeting: John Moeckel requested a payment of \$350 to Laurel Nokomis School for the Town Hall Meeting contract. There was unanimous approval. He reported that he has sent invitations to speak at this meeting to Mayor Holic, County Commissioner Al Maio, Barry Snyder of the Venice Planning Commission, Rick Barber, chair of the Venetian POA, and the director of the Venice Symphony.

11. By-Laws: We will continue discussion of proposed changes to our By-Laws, per the summary of our board retreat last November.

12. Association membership for renters: Marge Chandler asked why renters are not allowed to become members, as our By-Laws state. She feels there may be a value in permitted long-term renters to join. There was agreement to discuss this issue further at another meeting.

13. FDOT Bold Program: FDOT (Florida Dept. of Transportation) approved spending \$1,072,000 for the I-75 & Laurel Road interchange project last December. The work is expected to start in March of 2016. John Moeckel will be working with the project manager on input from Venetians on the design.

14. Shredorama: Roger Effron suggested the possibility of having a morning devoted to shredding documents for residents. This would be a service paid for by the Community Association. The cost to hire a mobile shredding service would be approximately \$200. After discussion, it was decided not to proceed primarily due to the fact that many of our residents now have their own shredders.

15. Guest Speaker Gift Idea: Diane Maskol did the research on obtaining Tervis Tumbler glasses for guest speakers. Cost is less than \$20 per glass. The glass will contain our logo. Diane will work with Roger Effron to get the logo printed and Diane will proceed with the purchase. Roger made a motion, seconded by Jerry Jasper, that we allocate no more than \$1,500 for this purchase. The vote was unanimous to approve this expense.

16. Storing Policies: Much of this issue has been resolved with the addition of a dropbox for the Association.

17. Rezoning for Skeet & Trap Ranges: Sarasota County commissioners voted unanimously on Feb.10 to rezone 43 acres of conservation land to expand the public shooting range at Knights Trail Park. This will allow room for a sporting clay course next to the existing shooting ranges. The VGRCCA had no formal input regarding the rezoning.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm.

Our next meeting will be on February 24, 2015 at 3pm at the River club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary