

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

**FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

**AT THE RIVER CLUB**

**VENICE, FLORIDA**

**Board Members in attendance:**

John Moeckel – President  
Roger Efron – Exec VP  
Bill Dwyer – VP  
Diane Maskol – VP  
Fred Baughman – Treasurer  
Tom Jones – Secretary  
Jerry Flood  
Bill Tvenstrup  
Bob Samuels  
Carol Barbieri  
Jill Faccenda  
Diane Bazlamit  
Fred Williamson

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

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

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, treasurer, distributed the monthly financial report via email to all Board members. Our account balance is \$75,474 in our cash account and \$37,865 in a restricted account for landscape buffering. Income this year to date is \$12,903, compared with \$9,541 for the same period last year. Fred provided all board members with a copy of the proposed budget for 2016, which will be discussed and approved at the March board meeting.

## **New Business**

1. External Affairs issue #1 -- concrete crushing operation: John Moeckel reported that the rezoning application has not yet been filed by a firm named Crush-It. John and Jerry Jasper have had meetings and phone discussions with John Peshkin, developer of the nearby community Toscana Isles, who is directly affected, on how to develop a strategy to deal with this proposed operation. The initial plan is to hire an acoustical engineer and to identify the impacts to our community. The first step is to try to mitigate the impact by working with the business owner to come to some agreeable solutions. If the owner is unwilling to mitigate, the next step would be to consider hiring a land use lawyer. There was a lengthy discussion on tactics. A motion was made to authorize the EA committee to spend up to \$10,000 to hire an attorney to do background work, and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – affordable housing project: John Moeckel discussed Venice Mayor Holic's proposal at last night's Town Hall Meeting to include affordable housing in the development of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation's property on Laurel Road. Also proposed for inclusion were a school, park, and police station.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Venice traffic task force: Carol Barbieri reported that this task force has been identifying problem intersections, discussing parking lots, traffic flow, biking, etc. This board will be sending specific recommendations to City Council.

4. Nominating committee: John Moeckel said Bill Dwyer will chair a nominating committee for the upcoming annual meeting on March 22. Seven board seats are up for re-election: John Moeckel, Roger Effron, Diane Maskol, Carol Barbieri, Jill Faccenda, Fred Williamson, and Bill Tvenstrup. Bill stated that he has decided not to run for re-election to the board.

5. Membership: Bill Dwyer said that our total of members is now at 660 with several new members joining at last night's meeting. He and others are working on a brochure for handout or display to promote the work of the Association.

6. Marketing activities: Roger Effron said the upcoming eye doctor event needs members to staff it. The seminar in March is on police use of force.

7. Town Hall Meeting: Roger Effron asked for comments on last night's meeting. Reviews were positive with several good reports from attendees. There were some issues with the volume and clarity of a few of the speakers, and there were complaints of not enough handouts. In summary, it was a very successful meeting with about 425 people in the audience.

8. Website updating: John Moeckel said that with Bill Tvenstrup leaving the board, another member is needed to take over postings to the website. Fred Baughman volunteered to do it.

9. Adopt-a-Road: John Moeckel discussed procedures for Sarasota County cleanup functions. Fred Williamson volunteered to take over the coordinating duties of our Laurel Road cleanup activities, and Bill Tvenstrup will work with him on the transition.

10. Meeting with Rich Cautero: John Moeckel said that Venice Council member Rich Cautero is willing to meet with our board at any time. Also regarding board meetings with City officials, Roger Effron suggested that we invite the chiefs of Venice fire and police departments, who have worked with us often, before sending an invitation to the Sarasota County sheriff.

11. Sarasota Memorial Hospital: Joe DeVirgilio, Venetian resident who is on the SMH board, asked our board to send a letter to the State in support of the proposed new hospital at Laurel and Pinebrook Roads. John Moeckel will handle that.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thomas W. Jones, Secretary