

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

MAY 24, 2016

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President
Roger Effron – Exec VP
Bill Dwyer – VP
Diane Maskol – VP
Carol Barbieri – VP
Fred Baughman – Treasurer
Tom Jones – Secretary
Diane Bazlamit
Tom Long

Member of External Affairs committee:

Jerry Jasper

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

Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, said that the draft minutes from the April meeting were 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 total account balance is \$110,049 and we have \$37,865 in a restricted account for landscape buffering. Fred said our Directors & Officers liability policy premium increased from approximately \$2,300 last year to \$2,700 this year.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 -- concrete crushing operation: Jerry Jasper reported that we are still waiting for Crush-It to submit phase 1 of their site development plan to the City.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – Sheriff’s Dept. vehicle maintenance facility: Jerry Jasper said the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners has cancelled their proposed public safety bond referendum, which included funding for a proposed vehicle maintenance facility to be built on County owned land at the northwest corner of Laurel Road and Honore Ave.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Venice Minerals site: Jerry Jasper reported that the purchase of this land by the City will close in June.

4. External Affairs issue #4 – Postal distribution center: Jerry Jasper said this proposal is not getting much attention, and one reason is the cost may be too high for what the Post Office is asking for in trade for their existing property on Venice Ave.

5. External Affairs issue #5 – County reservoir: Jerry Jasper said that the County is presently applying to SWFWMD (“Swift mud”) for funding for a pipeline to divert some of Cowpen Slough’s freshwater runoff to the reservoir just north of VG&RC. A berm will also be built around the reservoir. If funding is provided soon, completion is estimated in late 2018.

6. External Affairs issue #6 – Jackson Road: Jerry Jasper reported that the City Council has agreed to change the Comprehensive Plan and the applicable pre-annexation agreement to designate that Jackson Road will not be made a thoroughfare between Laurel and Border Roads.

7. External Affairs issue #7 – Willow Chase gunfire incident: Jerry Jasper said that VPD is still investigating where the gunfire originated which resulted in a bullet going through a window in a Willow Chase home. It is assumed that it came from a property south of the WC entrance and between Laurel and Border Roads.

8. External Affairs issue #8 – meeting with Bill Ahern: Jerry Jasper, Carol Barbieri, and Tom Jones will meet with Venice City Council candidate Bill Ahern on May 25 to discuss and learn his positions on issue of interest to VG&RC.

9. External Affairs issue #9 – Sarasota Memorial Hospital facility: John Moeckel said the proposed hospital at Laurel and Pinebrook Roads is awaiting a decision from the State, and that should be announced in early June. If it’s approved and competing hospital(s) challenge the decision, then it could go through a lengthy appeal process.

10. External Affairs issue #10 – Venice traffic study advisory board: Carol Barbieri reported that there are now 7 members on this board. Topics discussed recently were:

- Jacaranda Blvd. - Venice Ave. roundabout improvement plan
- Downtown Venice trolley will run again starting in January, with possibly a 2nd trolley
- Venice and Tampa Avenues may be repaved and get improved lighting at intersections
- Opening schedule of the 3 bridges on/off the island are out of the control of the City

11. Membership: Bill Dwyer said there has been very little new member activity and he's looking ahead to the new member orientations next fall. There was discussion about opening the sessions up to all residents as a general information orientation to cover the River Club, VCDD, POA, and CA, and it may be helpful to hold these once a month during the season.

12. Marketing activities: Roger Effron said that the "coffee and conversation with Rich", featuring Venice Council member Rich Cautero, went very well with good feedback. The survey of non-members will be going out and he cautioned that some of the replies may not be what we want to hear. Planning for next season's events and a printed schedule will be done over the summer. A proposed "electronic bulletin board", possibly called "The Wall", is being considered as a place to advertise items for sale/needed or services offered/needed. Roger will work with Joe Santucci on possible website changes. In discussion, a question was raised about data on the number of "hits" to the site, and Roger will ask Joe about this.

13. By-Law changes: John Moeckel said the approved revision to the By-Laws to reduce our board from 13 to 11 members has been changed in our documents.

14. Pesaro tree proposal: John Moeckel said he was contacted by the homeowners association on Savona Way about their proposal to ask the VCDD to plant oak trees along Pesaro Drive across from the golf course maintenance facility. There was no objection to this idea.

15. Summer meeting schedule: Roger Effron asked about everyone's summer travel schedule in order to plan when and how many meetings to have in June, July, and August.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28 at 1:00pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary