

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

JUNE 28, 2016

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Effron – Exec VP

Carol Barbieri – VP

Fred Baughman – Treasurer

Tom Jones – Secretary

Diane Bazlamit

Tom Long

Member of External Affairs committee:

Jerry Jasper

Call to order: Roger Effron, Executive VP, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Secretary's report: Tom Jones, secretary, said that the draft minutes from the May 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 balance is \$111,193 and we have \$37,865 in a restricted account for landscape buffering. Fred recommended that we leave our dues structure the same for 2017, as we may see the cost of our D & O insurance increase when WCI is finished building here. There was a discussion on our limits of liability. Fred suggested that we use August 1st as the “start date” for 2017 membership, and he will review that with Bill Dwyer.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 -- concrete crushing operation: Jerry Jasper reported that Crush-It has submitted their phase 1 development plan to prepare the site and do noise level testing. The company said they will increase the berm height until we are satisfied that the noise has been sufficiently mitigated. As a result, the berm height will show “12' minimum, 25 ' maximum”. Also in discussion is a landscape buffer along Gene Green Road.
2. External Affairs issue #2 – Mayor’s Campaign for Attainable Housing: Jerry Jasper reported that the Mayor’s goal is to build housing for PGT & Tervis Tumbler employees in the proximity of Laurel Road and Knights Trail. The Mayor has established a committee of local business and political people, and the CA sent a letter to the Mayor asking for a Venetian representative to be included as a “stakeholder” at a meeting on July 1. Jerry and John Moeckel also contacted the Mayor personally to make this request.
3. External Affairs issue #3 – Legacy Trail Laurel Road Overpass: Jerry Jasper said it appears that funding has been found for extra costs. The projected cost now exceeds \$3 million and construction will start later this year.
4. External Affairs issue #4 – Venice Minerals site: Jerry Jasper reported that the purchase of this land by the City closed on June 17. Ajax (former owner) has until December to get all materials off the property, though they expect this will be done well before then.
5. External Affairs issue #5 – Ajax site visit: Jerry Jasper reported on the visit by himself, Carol Barbieri and Tom Jones to the Ajax plant a week ago. This was primarily to observe their concrete crushing operation in preparation as to what might be expected at Crush-It. Ajax has converted the crusher from diesel to electric motor driven. Noise levels measured at the far south end of the new City property (closest to VG&RC) barely registered at voice conversation levels.
6. External Affairs issue #6 – Mini-storage development on Laurel Rd. at Knights Trail: Jerry Jasper said the application for this project has been submitted to the City. The main point of discussion is about the type of fence and landscape buffering on the north side of the property, and that is on-going.
7. External Affairs issue #7 – I-75 BOLD landscaping project: Jerry Jasper said the contract has been signed and construction should start soon. Completion is expected by February 2017. Estimated cost of this project has increased from \$1 million to \$1.7 million.
8. Campaign Forum: Jerry Jasper and Roger Efron said this event is planned for either October 10 or 17, depending on when candidates are available. There are 6 VCDD candidates for 3 seats, and these races are the featured event with the most Venetian interest. A motion was made and unanimously passed to spend up to \$750 to videotape the VCDD candidate presentations and post on our website. It was decided that questions for these races will be determined by open input from residents in advance, and questions will not be taken from the floor at the event.

8. Campaign Forum (cont'd): There was discussion about who else to invite, as there is currently no opposition for the 3 candidates who have filed for the 3 Venice City Council seats up for election. If no one else files before the August 26 deadline, then it was suggested that only Bill Ahern be invited to speak at our event, as he would be the only new Council member. If there is competition, then all candidates for each contested seat will be invited to debate.

9. VGRCCA website: Carol Barbieri reported on her meeting with Joe Santucci, our webmaster, and she reviewed their discussion on technical details and how Joe maintains and improves the website. There was unanimous approval to accept Joe's proposed billing contract of between \$25 and \$30 per hour, depending on the task, and up to \$800 for the year. A future meeting was planned for board members to meet with Joe to review website content.

10. Future seminars: Roger Effron reviewed possible seminars for the upcoming season, probably fewer than we held this past season. Various ideas were floated for topics.

11. HRT (hurricane readiness team) preparation meetings: Roger Effron discussed the sessions held yesterday and today at the River Club where over 300 residents attended to hear the plans for a hurricane from the POA, VCDD, HRT, and the Venice Fire Dept. There will be a meeting in July to review planning specific to HRT volunteers. Fred Baughman offered to input the names of volunteers into our database. Roger will get details on a possible text alert system – its cost, participation procedures and waivers, and usefulness.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 1:00pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary