

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

OCTOBER 25, 2016

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President
Roger Efron – Exec VP
Bill Dwyer – VP
Fred Baughman – Treasurer
Tom Jones – Secretary
Carol Barbieri – VP
Diane Maskol - VP
Diane Bazlamit
Tom Long
Bob Samuels
Fred Williamson

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 September meeting were previously circulated for comments and revisions via e-mail. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that we have \$73,159 in our general account and savings and \$37,865 in a landscape buffering reserve. Our deferred revenue from advance dues collections is just over \$15,000.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 –Hospital expansion in Venice: John Moeckel reported that Sarasota Memorial Hospital has resubmitted their application for a 100 bed hospital on Laurel Road and a reduced number of beds at the main facility in Sarasota. Venice Bayfront Hospital has submitted their proposal for a 210 bed facility at Venice Ave and Jacaranda Blvd. Reports are that both will write letters in opposition to each other’s proposals. John and Roger will meet with Bayfront management this week. The State will make a decision by December 2.
2. External Affairs issue #2 – Sheriff’s maintenance facility: John Moeckel said that Sheriff Knight feels his department can build a new facility at Laurel and Honore without a bond issue as long as the cost is under \$21 million. The design is to give this building a very low impact appearance with sufficient buffering. Some Laurel Road neighbors are upset with this plan and claim it’s a bad location, and the sheriff plans to meet with them to discuss.
3. External Affairs issue #3 – Traffic task force: Carol Barbieri said their committee chair has resigned due to lack of support from the City Council. They’ve been discussing solutions such as signage to direct drivers to available lots. The trolley will run from mid-January to mid-April and will probably cost \$2 per day.
4. External Affairs issue #4 – Venice parks: Roger Effron, who is a member of the Parks board, had no report.
5. External Affairs issue #5 – Milano development: John Moeckel said that Neal Communities is applying for a zoning change to expand the Milano PUD to include the Laurel Lakes site, which is immediately west of the current Milano. Neal presented their plan on Oct. 20 at the Venetian River Club and will also do it this evening at the Elks Club.
6. External Affairs issue #6 – Mini-storage development on Laurel Rd. at Knights Trail: Jerry Jasper said the only remaining issue is the amount of landscape buffering that the developer will install. We’re asking for 80% opacity vs. 25% in the plan, and they’ll consider this change.
7. External Affairs issue #7 – Solid waste and recycling: Jerry Jasper is a member of the City’s stakeholders group, which recommended a 5% increase in the trash and recycling pickup fee as of October 1st. This works out to about \$.80 per month for homeowners. There is also a pilot program of automated container handling for solid waste with new containers, and the Venetian is part of this test program.
8. External Affairs issue #8 – Crush-It plant: Jerry Jasper said there is no news here and phase 1 is likely still months away.
9. External Affairs issue #9 – Workforce housing: Jerry Jasper said the informal group, of which he is a member, is looking at possible sites for housing for Tervis Tumbler and PGT employees, and one may be in the Triple Diamond area nearby these employers. John Moeckel said he would talk further with the Mayor on this issue.

10. VCDD meeting discussion on traffic control: Jerry Jasper reported that the Venetian CDD is planning to hold two workshops (in December and January) to get input from residents on possible traffic control by an outside law enforcement group. Members of Venice Police, Sarasota County Sheriff, and Florida Highway Patrol will attend to answer questions. Also, the VCDD board did not move ahead on a proposal to install dog waste stands with bags and waste receptacles in our community.

11. Membership: Bill Dwyer reported that membership is at 405 for 2017. Three mailings are set to go out this Friday, one to each of the categories of members or non-members. He and Roger will be present at the upcoming first new member orientation.

12. Town Hall meeting: The annual Town Hall Meeting is planned for Monday, Feb. 27 at Laurel Nokomis School. The fee for the room rental is \$540, and the expense was approved by a unanimous vote.

13. Website: Carol Barbieri had a meeting with Joe Santucci on website issues. Joe agreed to a retainer at \$40 per month to be paid quarterly, starting with Q4 this year. The “Wall of Something” had over 250 hits/visits from 10/1 to 10/21, and Carol will continue to forward the report with website activity.

14. October events: Roger Effron said the Candidate Forum was attended by over 200 residents and a video of the event is available on You Tube. The Coffee & Conversation with Venice City Manager Ed Lavalley went well and the atmosphere worked well for a positive discussion. The Garden Seminar had a low attendance which was attributed to the lack of any promotional signage at the front gate. The Flu shot program was successful with 105 residents receiving shots. The “Wall of Something” has 36 postings and many compliments to the idea. Roger is working with a graphics company to create a “logo” identification 3x5 card promoting this site. The plan is to continue the membership requirement to post anything and extend this into 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 3:30pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary