

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

JULY 19, 2016

AT THE RIVER CLUB

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

Roger Effron – Exec VP
Carol Barbieri – VP
Bill Dwyer – VP
Diane Maskol – 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 June 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 \$110,729 and we have \$37,865 in a restricted account for landscape buffering. Membership revenue was minimal due to only 2 new members.

New Business

1. External Affairs issue #1 -- concrete crushing operation: Jerry Jasper reported that Crush-It's Phase I application has been received by the City and is presently being reviewed by the Planning Department. Phase I includes site preparation, the construction of an office and maintenance building and some buffering. Crushing operations are not a part of this application. Upon completion of the above described work, a mobile crusher will be set up on site and acoustical tests performed.
2. External Affairs issue #2 – Mayor's Campaign for Attainable Housing: Jerry Jasper reported that the Mayor has formed an informal group to study attainable/workforce housing, particularly for the needs of PGT and Tervis Tumbler employees. After much "lobbying", he agreed to include a representative from the External Affairs Committee to act as an observer during their meetings. The mission of this group is strictly fact-finding. According to Mayor Holic, if any action or recommendation is to be made, the group would need to reorganize as an Advisory Committee or Task Force which would be governed by the Florida Sunshine laws with all meetings being open to the public. The property on Laurel Road known as "The Bridges" and owned by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation is no longer being considered as a site for attainable/workforce housing.
3. External Affairs issue #3 – Mini-storage development on Laurel Rd. at Knights Trail: Jerry Jasper said an application has been received by the City for a mini-storage facility to be located south of Laurel Road on the Knights Trail extension, placing it southwest of CVS. This will require rezoning of the property which is now classified as Commercial-Highway Interchange and Commercial-Intensive. The External Affairs Committee is in contact with the applicant. The proposed mini-storage facility would be of relative low impact traffic and noise wise when compared to many other uses that are allowable under the present zoning.
4. External Affairs issue #4 – Laurel Road Legacy Trail Overpass: Jerry Jasper said funding has been approved for this project in the amount \$3.3 million. As of June 27, construction funding will be available as of October 1, 2016. However, the project may be delayed until some large water pipeline interferences can be resolved.
5. External Affairs issue #5 – I-75 BOLD landscaping project: Jerry Jasper said the contract has been awarded. Construction is scheduled to commence in September 2016 and completed in no more than 150 days thereafter.
6. External Affairs issue #6 – Sarasota Memorial Hospital appeal: Jerry Jasper said SMH has filed an appeal to the State's rejection of a proposed hospital at Laurel Road and Pinebrook Road. This will probably take several months until a decision is made. There was discussion the Board writing a letter in support of this appeal, however it was agreed that it may not be wise to interject ourselves in this issue and possibly alienate Venice Regional hospital.

7. External Affairs issue #7 – 2 City of Venice bond issues: Jerry Jasper lead the discussion on the two bond issues that Venice residents will vote on in November. Jerry said the general consensus is that the road bond issue has significant support, however the bond for a new police station may struggle for support due to lack of explanation and justification.

8. VGRCCA website: Carol Barbieri said that Joe Santucci, our webmaster, appreciated our acceptance of his fee schedule for website work. A meeting was held earlier in July and all tabs on the site were reviewed and determination was made as to which board member will update each. Diane Bazlamit volunteered to assist with website posting work when needed.

9. Survey of non-members: Bill Dwyer and Roger Effron reviewed the results of our recent survey of non-members as to why they haven't joined. Over 350 surveys were sent out and replies came in from about 50, a very decent return. The most common reasons were:

- Don't see any personal benefit or know what the Association dues for VG&RC
- Forgot to send in their membership form
- Confused by the different organizations at the Venetian

Respondents were mixed in their length of time living at VG&RC, and some didn't recall getting *Parcels*. There were no replies with specific negatives directed at the Association or the Board. Consensus was that the survey was helpful and gave us useful information.

10. Future seminars and activities: Roger Effron said he's getting good cooperation from organizers of seminars for this season. A brochure on planned events will be published in the fall again this year. The Candidate Forum is set for Oct. 10 with all 6 VCDD candidates scheduled, and we are waiting to see which, if any, City Council races are competitive.

11. Membership: Bill Dwyer reported that 678 members are paid for 2016 and 342 for 2017. Letters will go out in (probably) October for dues reminders to everyone whose membership is up for renewal. The group discussed membership table and recruitment strategies.

12. HRT (hurricane readiness team) preparation and involvement: Roger Effron thanked Fred Baughman for inputting the names of volunteers into our database. Group discussion centered on having a meeting with Roger and the key leaders he would select. Some items still need to be purchased and copies made, however there's no rush to do so. An article in *Parcels* could ask for replies by disabled people so their addresses could be recorded, and also to request homeowners who could assist with shutter installation.

13. Laurel Road cleanup: Bill Dwyer, who led the team with Fred Williamson absent, said there was a good turnout yesterday and the task was completed in about 40 minutes. Use of golf carts helped speed up the process.

14. Role of board members: Roger Effron asked everyone to continue to promote the Association and publicize things we're doing.

15. New business: Roger Effron suggested a letter be sent by the board to thank Jeanette Gates (City Council) and Christine Robinson (County Commissioners) for their service. The subject of exit interviews for resigned board members was brought up, and Roger said he'd ask John Moeckel where that stands. Tom Long recommended that we have our two insurance policies renew on the same date. He will handle that and also look into increasing our umbrella liability policy and what the levels and costs would be.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27 at 1:00pm at the River Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary