

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
VG&RC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
FEBRUARY 26, 2019
AT THE VENETIAN RIVER CLUB
VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

John Moeckel – President (arrived at 4pm)
Roger Effron –VP
Bill Dwyer – VP
Jerry Jasper – VP
Fred Baughman - Treasurer
Tom Jones – Secretary
Tom Long
Lew Perry

Guest:

Mike Wendroff

Call to order: Roger Effron, VP, called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Secretary's report: The minutes from the January meeting were previously circulated to the board for comments and they were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, gave the financial report, and we have \$114,097 in our account, with \$67,865 of this in a reserve. For 2018, our revenue was \$24,043 and expenses were \$16,447. For 2019, Fred estimated revenue at \$25,150 with the same amount in expenses. This budget was unanimously approved.

External Affairs issues:

1. **External Affairs issue #1 – Meeting with Sheriff Knight:** Jerry Jasper reported on the meeting to discuss the fleet facility to be built on Honore Avenue just north of Laurel Road. This project is proceeding and the ground-breaking is set for April of 2020. Sheriff Knight said he feels the next high school will be built in the North Port Villages area of Sarasota County.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – meeting with County Commissioner Al Maio: Jerry Jasper reported that Al said the resurfacing of Laurel Road is scheduled for 2021. We were encouraged to write letters to the County requesting that this date be pushed ahead. Al said that the extension of Knights Trail north to Clark Road is possible but still probably 5+ years away.

Other business:

3. Town Hall Meeting: Roger Effron asked for comments on how the meeting went.

Positive:

- Good exhibits – Neal, hospital, apartments, tree service
- Very informative
- Parking went well and 2 police officers were a big help
- Agenda information and diagrams on each chair
- Prepositioned tables for overflow
- Crowd was respectful with speakers

Negative:

- Went 30 minutes over
- Too many speakers and many didn't follow their time limit
- Rent more chairs to set up ahead of time
- Rent a public address system – sound coverage was spotty
- Need direction signs to cafeteria in parking areas

7. Membership: Bill Dwyer reported that there are 904 paid members for 2019, plus maybe a half dozen more to be recorded, putting us just about equal with last year's total of 920.

8. Future events: Roger Effron reviewed the upcoming events at the River Club: Shredfest (March 6) which will have a \$10 fee for non-members, and it was agreed to use the honor system rather than delay the process by having to look up names. Others are Sarasota Memorial Hospital (March 12), Rich Cautero (March 18), and a nature seminar (March 25).

9. Parcels: Roger Effron said he plans to begin a column in the newsletter called "Keep an eye on" to update residents with information regarding on-going issues.

10. Community betterment project: Roger Effron proposed that another bench be added to the 2 existing benches on our walkways. The suggested location is along the Veneto sidewalk near the junction with Padova, and the cost is about \$500. Roger will investigate this and other locations and report back to the board. Other project proposals were a donation to Laurel Nokomis School, partial support of Venetian pickleball courts, and more street lighting at intersections. Board discussion favored the additional bench proposal.

11. Insurance: Tom Long said he has changed our general liability policy classification to a civic organization instead of a homeowners group, which saved almost \$600. Our premium is based on number of members, not the total number of homes.

12. Parcels distribution: Jerry Jasper reported on a series of emails which included comments by the Venice Mayor and was initiated by the Mayor and Council receiving the February *Parcels From Paradise*. This issue included coverage of Councilperson Mitzie Fiedler's discussion with Venetians in late January. Roger Effron said this distribution to the Mayor and Council was done in error, and he was reminded of the board's policy that only VG&RC residents and selected Venetian staff are to be sent the newsletter.

13. Board elections and openings: Lew Perry said that he and Diane Maskol will contact Mike Wendroff and any other applicants for the 2 board openings.

14. Annual meeting on March 26: John Moeckel reminded the board that we need 91 proxies or attendees at the annual meeting to meet our quorum. He will update the proxy form and send out to the board, asking that each member get 10 signed proxies from neighbors.

15. HRT interest from other communities: Roger Effron said he has been contacted by two other Venice area communities who are interested in putting a hurricane readiness team in place. He suggested that it may be time to turn the HRT over to the Venetian POA. There was discussion on the idea and consensus was to leave the HRT where it is with the VGRCCA.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 3pm at the River Club, with the annual meeting to follow at 5pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Jones, Secretary