

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR OF
VG&RC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
AT THE RIVER CLUB
VENICE, FL

Board Members in attendance:

Diane Maskol – President	Roger Efron
Tom Long – Executive VP	Bob Samuels
Jerry Jasper – VP	Michael Wendroff
Nancy Spokowski – VP	Lew Perry (by phone)

Note that audience members were in attendance as well and that none of the attendees opted to speak during a public comment period.

Call to order: Diane Maskol, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Secretary's report: In the absence of the Secretary, Tom Jones, President Diane Maskol reported that the minutes from the August meeting were previously distributed to the Board for comments and they were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, was absent and there was no report.

Candidate Forum: Roger Efron reported on the plans for the Candidate Forum indicating that considering the large number of candidates the Forum start will be 4:30 p.m. He also indicated:

1. A better sound system had been ordered with three microphones. Roger will follow up with the vendor to inquire as to whether the meeting can be recorded by the vendor.
2. A special email was sent to all residents to announce the Candidate Forum and signs and cards marketing the forum will be distributed.
3. Jerry Jasper and Diane Maskol will be meeting the candidates as they arrive (if there are any late arrivals, due to candidates arriving closer to the time of their panel, Tom Long will be responsible for greeting them). Diane will be giving an opening presentation. Roger will be moderating the forum. Press will be in attendance.

4. A discussion ensued as to how to report on the results of the Candidate Forum to the community at large, especially to ensure that residents are informed of the candidate's stances on key issues that may directly impact Venetians. It was decided that the forum would be audio taped (candidates will be informed in advance by Diane Maskol), so that accurate reporting on the candidate comments, in their own words, can be reported. It was further decided that Diane Maskol would appoint a special committee to meet soon after the Candidate Forum to review and draft copy for a special edition of Parcels to be distributed by the end of the week that the Forum is held. The Special Committee of Michael Wendroff, Jerry Jasper, and Diane Maskol was appointed. The Committee will draft the text, make a final decision on the appropriateness of distribution and inform the rest of the Board of their decision.

Seminars: Roger Efron distributed a schedule of planned Activities and Events for 2019-2020 with dates. In each case where a coordinator was needed, the coordinator was assigned. Some dates are yet to be finalized and Roger will continue to pursue finalizing the schedule with the hope to schedule at least one seminar for an evening period, to accommodate our residents that are employed or otherwise engaged during the daytime.

The Dog Day Afternoon event will result in a fee to the photographer and the Board approved a not to exceed budget of \$700 for this purpose. Roger will attempt to get a sponsor to help underwrite the cost, but this is not assured.

Membership: Nancy Spokowski reported that we have 942 member homes, with 490 prepaid for future years. She reported that the Membership Enrollment Form had been redesigned. A discussion ensued about the list of Members to be included in the next issue of Parcels.

Marketing: Michael Wendroff reported on the status of development of a new logo and web site refresh. Expectations are that the new website can go live in a week or two. New letterhead and Membership Enrollment Forms have been obtained.

External Affairs:

1. Michael Wendroff attended a public workshop on the Neal 36-acre development located west of Cielo and East of the GCCF proposed development. This parcel is to be developed with townhouses at a lower density than that allowed. There are two entrances on Laurel Road, but it is unclear as to whether one is the main resident entrance and one is a fire marshal required second egress/ingress. Jerry Jasper will follow up on this.
2. Michael Wendroff and Jerry Jasper attended a public workshop on a proposed hotel to be located behind the self-storage facility on the south side of Laurel Road. It is to be five stories.
3. Michael Wendroff attended the September 24th City Council Meeting to speak on behalf of the VGRCCA's support for the enhancement/widening of Laurel Road.

4. The External Affairs Committee has been meeting with all candidates for City Council and Mayor to discuss their positions on the major items of importance to Venetians and to ensure that they understand our community's priorities, including the enhancement/widening of Laurel Road to accommodate future traffic needs and the Public/Private means of funding such a road improvement.
5. Jerry reported that the Dona Bay Watershed Restoration project has proceeded to peer review, but that there are many steps in the process, such that construction will likely not proceed until 2021 – 2023, after a bidding process takes place in September 2020.
6. Jerry reported that he received a call from Dan Peskin regarding his request for the previously appointed Portofino Advisory Committee of three Venetian residents and three Willow Chase residents to meet for the purpose of reviewing a potential candidate for the development of the Portofino property. Jerry has indicated that the Venetian members of the Advisory Committee are Tom Jones, John Moeckel, and Jerry Jasper.
7. Finally, Jerry reported that City Council was expected to vote to rescind their prior vote on the GCCF development, due to the absence of Mitzie Fiedler at the time of the original vote. Following that action there then will be another vote taken on the project.

Other Business:

1. Diane Maskol indicated that there had been some Board inquiry regarding moving future meeting dates so that there was no conflict with the City Council Meetings which often need to be attended by Board Members. It was discussed and agreed that future meetings would be held on the third Tuesday of the month, at 3 p.m., rather than the fourth Tuesday.
2. Michael Wendroff reported on a tour he took, along with Nancy Spokowski, of both the Venice Potable Water Plant and the Venice Reclaimed Water Plant. He reported that it appears everything is in order with the potable water process, with the expectation over time that a greater percentage of "good" water can be utilized, as installation of more highly developed technology is installed. He also reported that Venice's Reclaimed Water facility is an AWT (Advanced Water Treatment) facility, allowing for the highest level of treatment, something that has not yet been implemented in Sarasota County. He indicated that outfalls are now being monitored and that the City only have 50 homes remaining with septic systems at this time.

Michael indicated he would like to form a sub-committee to discuss possible options for initiatives that the VGRCCA could undertake to further the objectives of keeping our water as free as possible from high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen, which have the potential of feeding red tide. He suggested that this subcommittee include Tom Jones, Jerry Jasper, Nancy Spokowski, and himself.

Initial initiatives recommended would be:

- a. Keep the pressure on City Council regarding outfall monitoring and septic conversion

- b. Encourage environmental measures in the new LDR's
 - c. Other initiatives were discussed, but it is too early to recommend any additional initiatives.
3. Bob Samuels and Roger Efron reported that another Laurel Road clean up effort is scheduled for October 14th. This will be reported in Parcels. Also, Roger suggested that VGRCCA have two signs made up that state – “Today the VGRCCA is conducting a Laurel Road clean-up.” Before moving forward with this Bob Samuels will speak with Richard Mengel about this plan.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15th at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Spokowski
Acting secretary