

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
VG&RC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

AUGUST 18, 2020

Via ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

VENICE, FLORIDA

Board Members in attendance:

Diane Maskol - President
Michael Wendroff – Exec VP
Nancy Spokowski – Secretary
John Moeckel - VP
Jerry Jasper – VP
Lew Perry - VP
Fred Baughman - Treasurer
Tom Jones
Roger Efron
Michelle Trent
Bob Samuels

Call to order: Diane Maskol, President, called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and verified that a quorum was established.

Public Comments: Members of the public were asked if they had any comments and there were no comments.

Secretary’s report: The minutes from the July Board meeting were previously circulated to the Board for comments and they were approved unanimously.

External Affairs issues:

1. **External Affairs issue #1 – City Council Candidates:** Jerry Jasper reported that this is the last week for interested parties to apply to run for City Council. At this stage, the incumbent Mitzie Fiedler, is the only party running for Seat #1 and Brian Kelly and Bill Willson are the only declared candidates to date for Seat #2. The External Affairs Committee has already met with Bill Willson and plans are to meet with Brian Kelly on August 27th.

2. **External Affairs issue #2 – Rezoning of 2203 Knights Trail:** A public workshop is scheduled for September 4, 2020 at 5:30 on the property regarding the plans for development of this site for residential use. Jerry recommends that the VGRCCA just follow the developments related to this site at this time.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Medical Office Buildings proposed for Curry Lane: The request for rezoning of this 10.1 acre site (just south of the new SMH facility off of Pinebrook Road) from Moderate Density Residential (MODR) to City of Venice Institutional Residential (IP) to allow for Medical Office Building use was discussed at the City’s August Planning Board meeting. Jerry recommends that the VGRCCA just follow the developments related to this site at this time.

4. External Affairs issue #4 – Public park for Northeast Venice: As of October 1st, Impact Funds will be available for use for a Northeast Venice public park to potentially include a dog park, pickleball courts, a playground, and other amenities. Therefore, the time has come for VGRCCA’s more active involvement in ensuring this potential park includes the attributes desired by Venetian residents. Michael Wendroff has been following this matter for the VGRCCA and will continue to take the lead on this matter.

5. External Affairs issue #5 – Laurel Road widening: The process for use of \$400K for preliminary engineering to define the right-of-way and to provide sufficient information to obtain construction bids has been underway for quite some time and the next step is for presentation of the agreement related to this matter for approval by the County Commissioners. Discussions have been focused on the wording of the agreement and on the various means of conducting the engineering work (i.e. by the County, by a Public/Private partnership, by a third-party engineering firm, etc.). It is expected that this agreement will be accepted by the City of Venice at the August 25th City Council Meeting and on August 26th (Note: subsequent to the Board Meeting the BOCC meeting date on this topic has been revised to September 22nd) by the Sarasota County Commission as Consent Items. Diane asked if the External Affairs Committee would be prepared to make an in person presentation at the City Council Meeting to voice our support for this agreement to be accepted and Jerry indicated that EA would do this, if permitted in light of the current limitations on in person attendance, or if not possible, to participate by ZOOM.

6. External Affairs issue #6 – Mirasol Development – Tom, John, and Jerry met with the developer of the 7-11 outparcel on the Laurel Road and Knights Trail corner of the Mirasol development as part of the Advisory Committee, which includes Willow Chase participants. Most of the discussion centered around the extensive landscaping plans to screen the property. The Board asked for Jerry to follow up with the developer to ask for the remainder of the area in front of Treviso Grand to be better maintained, as the weeds are getting overgrown.

Other business:

1. Zoom Meetings: Michelle Trent reported on her attempts to fine tune the pricing on the ZOOM webinar product. She recommended we initially pursue getting a ZOOM Pro Account at a cost of \$14.99 per month, with a 100-person capacity for a cost of \$40 per month. This can be used for the testing phase, and if all checks out as expected, the capacity can be expanded to 500 persons at a cost of \$140 per month in time for the Candidate Forum. This recommendation was unanimously approved, and Michelle will follow through to order and the Seminar Committee will work to test the product.

2. Roger Effron reported on various matters, as follows:

1. The Seminar Committee will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. on August 20th to discuss the input received from the Board on potential events for the coming year. The results of this meeting will be reported on at the September Board meeting.
2. The Candidate Forum questions from residents were requested through Parcels and a few questions have been received. Roger plans to have a subgroup of Board Members assigned to complete the list of questions for City Council Candidates and a separate subgroup to complete the list of questions for the CDD candidates. Diane has contacted all participants and plans are continuing to test the

Zoom system, make assignments of Board members to welcome and assist candidates, ensure all equipment is in place and available for use, etc. The Candidate Forum will be on October 6th, commencing at 6 pm.

3. Roger suggested that we need to ensure the VGRCCA accomplishments for the past year are updated on our web site. Diane, John, and Fred will collaborate on this.
4. Roger reported on the success to date of the Supply the Supplies effort. To date, \$3,820 in cash contributions have been received from residents in addition to a large amount of school supplies. The supplies and funds raised will be delivered to the school administration persons on August 28th, at 8:30 a.m. at the Golf Club and Board Members are invited to be present for the presentation at either the Golf Club or at the Laurel Nokomis school and photo opportunity.

Membership: Nancy Spokowski reported that 992 homes are paid members, which represents a slight increase from that at the time of our prior Board Meeting.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that our total cash available for current use is \$36,448. He reported that \$12,683 had been spent to date this calendar year, with \$25,360 in revenues collected, so we are in good financial shape.

New Business:

1. Diane reported that the Laurel Road Civic Association received Business of the Year award in the Non-profit category from the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce and that she sent a letter on behalf of VGRCCA congratulating them.
2. Michael volunteered to get the VGRCCA web site calendar updated.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 3 pm most likely by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Spokowski, Secretary