

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

**SEPTEMBER 15, 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  
Fred Baughman - Treasurer  
Tom Jones  
Roger Effron  
Michelle Trent  
Bob Samuels

Note: Lew Perry was unable to attend due to technical difficulties

**Call to order:** Diane Maskol, President, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and verified that a quorum was established.

**Public Comments:** No members of the public were present to make comments.

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

**External Affairs issues:**

1. **External Affairs issue #1 – Pine Brook/Venice Avenue Intersection:** Jerry Jasper reported that currently the improvement of this intersection is on the schedule for 2024 and hence the full maximum funding of \$3.4 million of impact fees are being held in abeyance pending the engineering study for this project. Jerry has met with Spencer Anderson and Sarasota County Public Works to attempt to move the engineering study forward, so that the funding needs for can be fine tuned and perhaps allow for some of these funds to be freed up for Laurel Road. In addition to this matter, Jerry is working on an attempt to reconcile the differences in the City and the County’s traffic studies as far as the timing of the possible “fail” for Laurel Road.

2. **External Affairs issue #2 – Park for Northeast Venice:** Michael Wendroff is working with James Clinch, Director of Public Works City of Venice, to help with the identification of a location for a park for Northeast Venice and the amenity components desired by residents for such a park. Michael suggested to James that a

Stakeholders Committee by formed. Jerry Jasper and Michael are working on identifying representatives from nearby communities to be on such a Committee. VGRCCA included in *Parcels* an update about the City's pursuit of a location for a Northeast Venice park, as well as a request for residents to contact us about their requests for amenity inclusions in such a park. Roger also mentioned that he sits on the City's Parks and Recreation Committee and hence will be involved in the Committee's discussions on this matter.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Ad hoc Water Committee: The VGRCCA Ad hoc Water Committee will be meeting on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss various matters including Solitude's report on the water quality in the Venetian lakes, specifically the nitrogen levels. Also on the agenda is a report from Tom Jones on the Environmental Advisory Board's LDR Environmental input.

**Membership:** Nancy Spokowski reported that 992 homes are currently paid members, which is the same membership as that at the time of our prior Board Meeting. She also recommended to the Board that the VGRCCA Fee structure for 2021 remain consistent with the fee structure currently in place. This recommendation was unanimously approved by the Board. Finally, Nancy reported that the membership drive for 2021 is now in the planning stages with the first membership e-mailings to be sent out just after election day.

**Other business:**

1. Candidate Forum: Roger Effron reported on the plans to date for the City Council and CDD Candidate Forums. Discussion ensued about the status of getting the technology ready for this event and the various challenges related thereto. One matter is the need for a Wi-Fi Booster in the dining area of the River Club. Roger is going to see if, rather than having the IT expert just come to the Candidate Forum and bring his equipment for us, we instead can donate the purchase of such equipment to the River Club and have it installed for a permanent solution. The Board voted unanimously to approve \$500 for this IT donation to the River Club and also authorized the Candidate Forum Committee to hire the IT expert for the Candidate Forum if he is needed.
2. Supply the Supplies: Roger Effron reported that this initiative had been very successful with 15 boxes of supplies provided to Laurel Nokomis School as well as a check for \$4,850.
3. City of Venice Ambulance – The City of Venice is going to showcase their new ambulance at the River Club on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:00. Further, they will have an Open House ceremony on October 6th for the City to debut the ambulance and Board Members will be getting invitations to this event.
4. Seminars for 2020/2021: The Seminar Committee (Michelle, Michael, Lew, and Roger) met to discuss all of the suggestions provided by Board Members for Seminars for the next several months and spoke with a number of others regarding this matter. Seminar ideas recommended by the Committee were outlined as follows:
  - a. Female Astronaut with ties to Venetian
  - b. Mitzie Fiedler's update on Current Issues
  - c. A COVID Survivor's story
  - d. What you should know before heading to the beach
  - e. Five key questions for your doctor
  - f. Rich Cautero and City government
  - g. Pain management
  - h. Landscaping/gardening presentation

In addition, the Committee expects that we will be able to run the Bike-O-Rama, Shredfest, and CPR training events that we have every year, with appropriate adjustments for Social Distancing and other COVID protection requirements. Roger asked for volunteers to run the Bike-O-Rama event and Diane, Fred, and Bob indicated they would try to help, subject to their travel schedules, so the plan for managing this event still needs to be worked out.

The Board unanimously agreed that the Seminar plan schedule looks good and the Committee should take the next steps to work out timing, presenters, and other details.

**Treasurer's report:** Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that our surplus at this time for this year stands at approximately \$12K, so there are sufficient funds in hand for the initiatives we have on our plate.

**New Business:**

1. Flagpole at the entry way update – the Flagpole should be delivered on Friday and installed next week. A question was raised as to whether any of the lighting was damaged and if so, there will be a separate company that will need to be contracted to do this work. Roger said he would look into this matter.
2. A brief discussion ensued on contents for future *Parcels* regarding the various organizations (CDD, POA, VGRCCA) and their roles, history, purpose, etc. It was decided that we will discuss that again after the CDD Election.
3. Diane reported that she, John, and Jerry worked on updating the VGRCCA accomplishments for our web site.
4. Roger reported that the CEO of Venice Hospital resigned, and a search is underway for a replacement.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th at 3 pm. Whether to hold this meeting by Zoom or in person will be decided closer to the time of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Spokowski, Secretary