

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**VG&RC COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2020**  
**BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**  
**VENICE, FLORIDA**

**Board Members in attendance:**

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

**Call to order:** Diane Maskol, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 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 October Board meeting and the minutes from the October Special Board meeting were both previously circulated to the Board for comments and both were approved unanimously.

**External Affairs issues:**

1. External Affairs issue #1 – Northeast Venice Park: Michael Wendroff reported that James Clinch, Director of Public Works for the City of Venice, previously indicated he supports our recommendation for a committee of North Venice residents to serve in an advisory capacity regarding this park. The resolution relating to the formation of this committee was unanimously approved by the City Council at their October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Michael is working with Mr. Clinch regarding recommendations of committee members. Further a survey of Venetian residents polling Venetians on their desires for this park has been circulated and tabulated. Michael reported an overwhelming number of residents, in excess of 700 persons, responded to the survey, confirming the high level of interest in such a park. The summary survey results will be provided to the community, the CDD, Mr. Clinch, and several other appropriate parties.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – Laurel Road Expansion: Jerry Jasper reported that City Council discussed the possible expansion of Laurel Road at their most recent meeting. The engineering design work for this project has not yet commenced, as the City has not completed drafting a contract with Pat Neal for this work. City Manager, Ed Lavallee, said the contract draft may not be ready for last meeting of the calendar year which is to be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – New Pumping Station in North Venice: Jerry Jasper reported that a public workshop recently was presented by Zoom on this matter. The construction is expected to commence in Q2-2021 and take 12 to 15 months to complete. Notably the facility is to be powered by three acres of solar panels.

**Membership:** Nancy Spokowski reported that 993 homes are currently paid members, which is roughly equivalent to that of the last few months. She indicated the membership drive for end of the year expirations has commenced, with 58 renewals as a result of the Parcels articles in the October and November issues. Further, 19 renewals occurred on day one of the first membership emailing from Constant Contact. Numerous additional renewals have come in on day two, but the data on these renewals has not yet been tabulated.

She indicated that a new VGRCCA Ad scheme had been created with three different ads designed and executed by Paul Grothouse, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager at the River Club. This work by Paul saved VGRCCA a great deal of monies vs. the cost of hiring a professional graphic designer. Nancy recommended a \$250 gift card be provided to Paul to compensate him for his work. This proposal was approved by the Board unanimously and Nancy will work with Fred to obtain the gift card.

**Community Betterment Project:** A Wi-Fi booster was installed at the River Club to enhance the Wi-Fi service there. The plans for an improved audio system have been put on hold due to difficulties meeting on this project in light of COVID.

Other reports from Roger:

1. Ajax food donation project: Roger Effron reported on the success of the food donation project sponsored by Ajax Paving, with three barrels of food donated by Venetians picked up this week. The President of Ajax, Vince Hafeli, was present for the donation pickup and was very thankful of the generosity of our community. Roger suggested that Ajax may have some land that could be useful for the future City of Venice Northeast Venice park planned. The External Affairs Committee will discuss whether reaching out to Mr. Hafeli on this matter makes sense.
2. Seminars for 2020/2021: Following the approval of hiring Sight and Sound to assist with future seminars, Roger has been following up on seminar plans. He indicated that CPR training is on hold at the moment in light of COVID, but that he has been reaching out to other potential speakers, as well as pursuing the upfront planning for Bike-O-Rama (along with Lew Perry) and Shredfest, to be conducted in a COVID-safe manner. No additional Seminars are scheduled for November/December at this time.
3. The Wall: Roger reported that a Best Of... feature has been added to the Wall and he encouraged Board Members to post to this new section. A discussion ensued on how to make the Wall more robust – Roger will follow up on making the posting process more streamlined and also on the possible development of an Advertisement to market the Wall. Further, Roger will follow up with Pam Henard and Joe Santucci to see if there is an easy way to develop an automatic link to compare Wall posting requests to CAMM to identify any non-residents attempting to post.

4. Parcels: Roger reported that he is working on a slightly revised format for Parcels to shorten up articles in keeping with today's technology in which many readers are using cell phones to read Parcels.

**Treasurer's report:** Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that our surplus at this time for this year stands at approximately \$10K, as a result of revenues of \$25,381 and expenses of \$15,058 to date. In addition, he stated that to date over \$13K in revenue has been collected for use in 2021. He further reported that there currently is approximately \$30K of cash available for current use.

**Other:**

1. Roger suggested that the Board contemplate holding a Special Meeting to calibrate the VGRCCA's progress this year – things that went well, and things that could use improvement. In light of the constraints of COVID, overall Board Members agreed this suggestion was a good one, but the timing would need to be in the future, when in person meetings could be recommenced. Meanwhile, Diane indicated that she proposed Summer meetings, next year, be held by Zoom, so that the Board could continue meeting, regardless of Board Members travel schedules.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15 at 3:00 pm by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Spokowski, Secretary