

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

**MARCH 8, 2021**

**BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**VENICE, FLORIDA**

**Board Members in attendance:**

Diane Maskol - President  
Michael Wendroff – Exec VP  
Nancy Spokowski – Secretary  
Jerry Jasper – VP  
Lew Perry – VP  
John Moeckel – VP (arrived late for latter part of meeting)  
Fred Baughman - Treasurer  
Tom Jones  
Roger Efron  
Bob Samuels  
Michelle Trent

**Call to order:** Diane Maskol, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 February Board meeting were previously circulated to the Board for comments, a few changes were discussed, and then, subject to those changes, were approved unanimously.

**External Affairs issues:**

1. **External Affairs issue #1 – Northeast Venice Park:** Michael Wendroff reported that a survey to gauge Northeast Venice residents' desires for a park in this area was circulated and over 800 responses were received. The City's consultant is tabulating the results and will be presenting the analysis at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Stakeholder's Committee. Michael reported that after the consultant's presentation the City will be in a better position to seek land that can accommodate the anticipated needs for the park.
2. **External Affairs issue #2 – City of Venice Parks:** Michael Wendroff reported that at the next City Council meeting the Council will vote on a proposal to swap the maintenance responsibilities and related costs for some parks with Sarasota County. If approved this swap will cost the City approximately \$300K

in increased expenditures, but it is expected it will save the City an amount greater than this in capital improvement costs and costs to conform with ADA requirements.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – Planning Commission Meeting: Michael Wendroff reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting the plans for the 7-11 convenience store, gas station, and car wash on the corner of Laurel Road and Knights Trail was discussed. The structure will have appropriate landscape buffers and be in the Italianate style required by the City. Michael reported that the fuel trucks will be entering the site from Knights Trail and exiting on to Laurel, which is not ideal, but it was approved by the Planning Commission.

4. External Affairs issue #4 – Michael reported that at its last meeting City Council voted on a request to change the zoning for a 200-acre parcel North of Laurel Road on the West side of Knights Trail. The request was to allow zoning referred to as Mixed Use Transitional, which allows both residential and non-residential uses, such as industrial uses. Three Councilpersons, including Rich Cautero, voted against this request, but four Councilpersons, including Mitzie Fiedler, vote for this zoning change and hence the change in zoning was approved. It was further explained that the type of industrial uses allowed in this zoning category would be light industrial, like that in the Triple Diamond Industrial Park, not uses like the asphalt crushing operations on Gene Greene Boulevard.

5. External Affairs issue #5 - Michael reported City Council will be meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the Planning Commission will be meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Commission will be covering the Zoning Regs in the LDR's. Michael will be attending both meetings.

**Membership:** Nancy Spokowski reported that 934 homes are currently paid members, which is less than that at the peak in the Fall, 2020. She indicated that memberships were still coming in, but she believes that the slightly lower membership number is due to the impact of COVID, which impairs our face time in front of residents, as well as the huge number of homes changing ownership in the past twelve months, and currently under contract.

Nancy asked the Board for any ideas they had relative to ensuring Members were receiving the best advantage from their membership. As a result, most Board Members felt that we should consider making Bike-O-Rama a members-only event and returning to the prior policy of Members attending Shredfest/Junkfest for free and Non-Members paying a \$10 fee.

**Seminars and Events:** Roger Effron reported that Shredfest/Junkfest was a great success and that two events are scheduled for the next two weeks – Rich Cautero will be speaking by Zoom on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm and Mote Marine will be doing a presentation on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm. He pointed out that the Mote presentation will require a registration in advance, as Mote will be using their own technology for the event. Instructions on registering will be included in the next Parcels, to go out this week.

A few comments were shared by Nancy Spokowski on her recent experience with Sight & Sound. Use of a technology firm for seminars/presentations in the future will be discussed again when next season's Seminar program is put together.

Roger indicated that planning is underway for the Hurricane Readiness Team. Resident Tim Carr, a former fire fighter, reached out to Roger to offer some ideas and Roger will be getting back to the Board on any approvals needed to secure additional equipment or supplies.

Roger proposed another bench by purchased by the Community Association for the Venetian and placed on Pesaro Drive in front of the pond behind the seventeenth tee. The Board unanimously approved this purchase.

**Treasurer's report:** Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that revenue for the 2021 year to date stands at \$23,046, with expenses standing at \$11,324, for a net surplus at this time of \$11,722. Cash available for current use now stands at \$39,794. He explained that the substantial increase in expenses was due to the recent payment of our annual insurance bill. He further explained that revenues at this point were approximately \$1K less than budget, but expenses were also substantially under budget.

**President's report:** Diane Maskol reported that the notice of the Annual Meeting was sent out by email to members. She discussed the methodology planned by the Nominating Committee for developing the slate of Board candidates to be presented at the Annual Meeting. She also noted that we will need approximately 90 proxies for a quorum at the Annual Meeting and therefore that each Board Member is tasked with gathering at least 10 proxies.

**New Business:**

**Area Development Map:** Michelle Trent suggested that as we are not planning on a Town Hall Meeting this year it would be great to have the area development map prepared and including in the next Parcels. Jerry agreed to prepare this map and John volunteered to assist if necessary.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 12th at 4:00 pm by Zoom. This meeting will be followed by the Annual Meeting at 5:00 p.m. Following the Annual Meeting will be a short Organizational Meeting of the Board. Diane will send out three separate Zoom invitations for these meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Spokowski, Secretary