

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

APRIL 12, 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
Fred Baughman - Treasurer
Tom Jones
Roger Efron
Michelle Trent

Also in attendance – Mark Faford (Board Candidate)

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 March Board meeting were previously circulated to the Board for comments and 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 by the City and approximately 1000 responses were received. A Zoom public workshop to review the responses was held on March 25th, hosted by City’s Director of Public Works and Asset Management, James Clinch, with about 30 Zoom viewers joining the call. The respondents indicated both a passive and active park was desired, with nature, paved walking trails, and open space. As far as the active components, respondents favored pickleball, a children’s playground, and a dog park, in that order of preference. The Northeast Venice Park Stakeholder’s Work Group will be meeting on April 21st at which time the survey responses will be broken down to provide just responses from Northeast Venice residents. At this meeting, the Stakeholder’s Work Group plans to finalize their recommendations to be presented to the Parks and

Recreation Advisory Board. Following this, a presentation will be made by the Advisory Board to City Council. The next step will be for the City's consultant to identify potential land parcels for this use.

2. External Affairs issue #2 – Laurel Road: Michael Wendroff reported that Pat Neal provided an update to City Council during which he indicated that the engineering process for the potential Laurel Road expansion is well underway with no obstacles identified to date. He noted that the options for the Laurel Road improvements will be presented with cost estimations for each and that he would like the City Council to decide in July before their Summer break on which option they prefer. Michael pointed out that now included in the funding options for the roadway expansion is the \$10 million in Federal Stimulus monies expected to be received by the City of Venice.

3. External Affairs issue #3 – City Council Capital Improvement Program Workshop: Michael Wendroff reported that a Capital Improvement Program Workshop was held by the City on March 30th and that it was noted in that workshop that Laurel Road is a priority for the City. The second part of this workshop is scheduled for April 13th.

4. External Affairs issue #4 – Crushing Plant: Michael reported that the crushing plant north of the Venetian is required by agreement with the City to hold an annual meeting with the Venetian. He is working on setting up such a meeting.

5. External Affairs issue #5 – City of Venice Architectural requirements - Michael reported that currently a State of Florida Bill has been proposed that would not allow local jurisdictions to mandate construction design appearance standards. This would handcuff the City from mandating Italianate architecture for new development requests. Jerry Jasper indicated that this change would not have a significant impact on our neighborhood, as most of the surrounding PUD's planned have already sought approval and hence are subject to the design standards incorporated in those approvals. Further, Jeff Shrum, Venice Development Services Director, has stated that the in-process Land Development Regulations (LDR's) for the City do not include this blanket design requirement. Jerry pointed out that the revised LDR's are still only in draft stage, so ultimately whether the City's LDR's contain such architectural mandates is yet to be determined. Michael inquired of Jerry whether he should plan to attend the next Planning Commission meeting to speak about this matter and Jerry indicated that this matter was not part of the next meeting Agenda and therefore, Michael should not plan to attend.

Membership: Nancy Spokowski reported that 968 homes are currently paid members, 70.2% of homes. She indicated that this membership level was close to the maximum membership level prior to the membership renewal drive commencement.

Seminars and Events: Roger Effron reported the following:

1. HRT Communications will be starting in May with an online solicitation for volunteers, as was done last year. He further noted that last year many of the managing volunteers were in town for the hurricane season (due to COVID travel restrictions), but this year we may face more issues with ensuring we always have coverage.

2. Roger solicited feedback on this year's Seminars. Overall, the Board felt the Seminar program was highly successful, especially considering the need to conduct remote Seminars due to COVID. Diane commented that there were too many Seminars in a row and that she thought this impaired attendance. Michelle stated she agreed and commented that mixing up the dates and times may allow for more inclusion. Roger threw out the idea that he would like Board Members to think about different ideas to

freshen up the Seminar programs for next year. Lew suggested we should consider a Seminar in conjunction with the CDD and POA to help educate the Community on the roles of each and the roles of the various Committees, as well.

Treasurer's report: Fred Baughman, Treasurer, reported that revenue for the 2021 year to date stands at \$23,985, with expenses standing at \$13,244, for a net surplus at this time of \$10,741. Cash available for current use now stands at \$38,813, approximately \$150 less than budget, but expenses are also substantially under budget, so that our financial position is strong. He further indicated that funds remain available for additional betterment projects this year.

New Business:

1. Roger reported on the status of the Town Hall Parcels edition. He recommended that this edition be forwarded to several third parties in the City that typically would have been invited to the in-person Town Hall in previous years. This proposal was agreed to with several the issues to be delivered in person (either by Roger or the Board Member who conducted an interview with one of the contributors) and by email, to any person excluding those in the City with public email addresses.
2. Roger previously recommended that a goal setting discussion for the VGRCCA be held and it was agreed that this would take place at a workshop (in person) dedicated solely to this purpose. This meeting will be held starting at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27th. Lew Perry volunteered to coordinate/moderate this meeting. Diane will check with the River Club on space availability.
3. Michael recommended, considering the extensive amount of time that Mote Marine devoted to the Seminar they presented to us, including using their own technology and allocating a Producer to the segment, that the VGRCCA thank them with a \$250 contribution. This motion was carried with a 6 for and 3 against vote.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th at 4:00 pm by Zoom, unless decided otherwise at the April 27th workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Spokowski, Secretary