

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of
The Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association, Inc.
Held via Zoom on September 13, 2021**

Board Members in attendance:

Diane Maskol - President
Michael Wendroff – Exec VP
Nancy Spokowski – VP
Fred Baughman - Treasurer
Michelle Trent – Secretary
Tom Jones
Roger Efron
John Moeckel
Mark Faford

Absent: Jerry Jasper, Lew Perry

Call to order: Diane Maskol called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. and stated that a quorum was established. Diane announced that the Zoom meeting info was posted to the website.

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

Secretary's report: Minutes of the last board meeting were voted on and unanimously approved.

Seminars and Events as reported by Roger Efron:

Roger thanked the committee members for their work. Most speakers have been secured and dates confirmed. The new chiefs event will be confirmed in November. CPR training is confirmed.

The Candidate Forum is scheduled for October 4th 6:30 p.m. at the River Club. Some of our board members have met with the candidates in advance. The forum will be recorded so that non-attendees can watch later. Agenda: Diane will make introductory remarks. Roger is the emcee. Seat #3 slate of candidates will go first. Then seat #4 candidates will follow. Each candidate will make opening remarks. Roger will pose the questions. Attendees can ask questions and submit on index cards for Michael to screen. We are in good shape for the sound system.

External Affairs as reported by Michael Wendroff:

Laurel Rd. Widening: Tomorrow, September 14th is the big city council meeting with Pat Neal giving a presentation to move to the next step on the public private plan for expanding Laurel Rd. The proposal includes a linear park. Michael was planning to talk at the meeting, as well as send an email to council on behalf of the CA. Board members were asked to send in emails of support as well.

Candidate Forum: Members of the EA committee have met with/are planning to meet with all candidates, with the exception of Helen Moore, who is unavailable. They have agreed to appear at our candidate forum on October 4. Michael reviewed the format for the meeting, which was agreed to. Board members were asked to submit questions for the candidates by September 24.

NE Venice Parks Stakeholders Group: Three potential properties have been agreed to for park vetting (including a property on Laurel Rd). City is doing due diligence on these properties. Once due diligence is completed the price of properties will be preliminarily negotiated, and then it must go through council for approval.

Water: Michael attended a webinar on the water storage facility. This facility connects to the rest of the Dona Bay watershed, with the objective of improving water quality and health of the watershed. It is estimated to be an 18 month project to complete. A berm will be constructed around it to ensure it meets Venice noise ordinance standards.

Michael attended a meeting of the Planning Commission on a water booster station and storage tanks that the City of Venice wants to construct adjacent to the water storage facility. This will increase pumping capacity, storage, and water pressure to us. To mitigate noise they will construct a building around the pumps, using the Northern Italian architecture style. In addition, a pipe will go down Perimeter Road to Laurel Rd to tie into Sarasota County water for an additional emergency water supply for our community. The easement desired for all this is just for this utility, anything else built there would require further approval. The PC voted 7-0 to approve.

Developments:

-Michael attended a workshop on the "Hoskins Grove Property," which is 10 acres by Knights Trail and Gene Green. 122 multiple family units will be built, in buildings of 6, 10 and 24 units. It is not affordable housing, and will have an amenity center/pool.

-Per another workshop, there are plans to build a Circle K convenience store with car wash/gas pumps near McDonald's on Laurel Road/Pinebrook (across from the hospital).

-Planning Commission approved two new development plats-Rustic Road South has 400 single family homes in a gated subdivision over 170 acres. Rustic Road North has 300 single family detached homes. The developer will build a road that connects Knights Trail Rd with Honore. During the meeting, commissioners stated that the developer must inform prospective buyers that these homes will be near the gun range and I-75.

Membership as reported by Nancy Spokowski:

Current membership is 966 homes. Nancy has been actively distributing VGRCCA membership info to all the new homeowners. There have been 75 new homeowners since January 1, 2021. 27 have become members. Nancy believes more will become members once season gets geared up this fall.

New Member Orientation Breakfast: On November 5th we will host a continental breakfast at River Club for new residents. Nancy, Mark, and Jerry met recently to discuss the agenda. Agenda: Intro by Diane, 10 minutes from Michael on External Affairs, 10 minutes from Roger on seminars and HRT, and Jerry will introduce Lorraine the Information officer from City of Venice to speak for 10 minutes. Roger asked that we have an ice breaker and allow people to introduce themselves since one of the goals of the event is new homeowner networking. Invitations will be sent out to the first group with an RSVP requested within 10 days. These are 186 non-member new homeowners who purchased homes after January 1, 2020. The second invitation mailing would be new homeowners since January 1, 2020 who have become CA members. Mark commented that the committee has a follow-up email plan to continue with invitations and encourage RSVPs. Target attendance is a maximum of 60 people. Nancy needs to speak to Joe Santucci about creating the RSVP functionality on the website.

Treasurer's Report by Fred Baughman:

The Profit and Loss statement shows a \$3,775 deficit this includes the cost of the sound system for the River Club. Cash available is \$24,296. Money market account is around \$88,000 due to \$10,000 transfer from there to pay for sound system A/V cart for the River Club.

NEW BUSINESS (5 items)

Charitable Donation recommendation:

Michelle asked if the board would consider providing lunches for the custodians at the Laurel Nokomis school since our "Supply the Supplies" donation was declined this year. Also, we hope to utilize the cafeteria in spring for the Town Hall meeting and the custodians are responsible for set up and clean up. John commented that in years past we donated Publix gift cards to the custodians for their work with the Town Hall meeting. It was suggested by several board members that the LNS PTO provide this donation which Michelle will pursue with that organization.

Red Tide discussion:

Diane commented that she appreciated that Michael sent the “Red Tide” article that he wrote into the Venice Gondolier newspaper for publishing. Some board members, including Michael, spoke that they believed that we should communicate these type of topics/issues that affect our quality of life and property values to our membership. Diane recommended that Michael take the Florida friendly landscaping and environmental recommendations to the POA as landscaping falls under the POA purview.

John Moeckel said that the VGRCCA was set up to deal with the external affairs outside of our gates. We then added seminars and events to provide additional value to our residents/ members. Do we have mission creep? Are we going too broad with our mission? Are our board members taking on too much? What are our boundaries?

Tom said that red tide is a vital issue. Our board’s mission is to make people more aware of things. Tom does not see the POA doing the awareness of red tide. Our organization should do the awareness of red tide. Nancy recommended we do a seminar on the environment and include red tide mitigation information in that seminar. Roger believes that red tide fits within our mission statement.

Michael brought up the issue of water quality. Diane confirmed that drinking water quality is part of the mission of the External Affairs committee.

There was no agreement amongst the board members on the issue of red tide and if it falls within the mission of the Community Association.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital – Venice:

John reported that he and Tom are on the advisory council for the new SMH hospital. SMH is paying to have a road cut in for emergency vehicles from Laurel Rd. The state has said that they won’t pay for road maintenance on this road. John has written a letter to ask the county to maintain this emergency road because it provides quick and critical access for emergency vehicles into the new hospital.

Mirasol Property:

John reported on the Mirasol property just west of us on Laurel Rd. He and Tom will be attending an advisory committee meeting where there will be discussion on a possible new element to be added to this development. John will report back on the outcome of this meeting.

Traffic on Laurel Rd in front of LNS:

Michelle attended a recent Zoom meeting of the Laurel Nokomis School Parent-Teacher Organization (LNS PTO). During the meeting Michelle asked Principal Wilson about the traffic back-up that occurs in front of the school for almost an hour during the AM drop-off and PM pick-up times and what has been considered to alleviate this traffic and safety concern. The principal replied that the Sarasota County Long Term Planning Commission conducted a study a few years ago and formulated a plan to increase the driveway “parent loop” in front of the school to get more cars off of Laurel Rd during the

peak times. However, the solution was not pursued due to the cost, citing that the tree removal alone would cost \$200K.

Upcoming Meeting:

The next meeting will be October 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Trent, Secretary