

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
The Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association, Inc.  
Held at the River Club on October 11, 2021**

***Board Members in attendance:***

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

***Absent:*** Mark Faford

***Call to order:*** Diane Maskol called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. and stated that a quorum was established.

***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.

***External Affairs as reported by Michael Wendroff:***

**NE Venice Parks Stakeholders Group:** City completed the due diligence on the 3 properties under consideration for the park. Two out of three properties dropped out. The property that is still in the running is the one proposed by Mr. Neal. At the November 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting the hope is that this will be approved, which is the 5 acre property near Dollar Tree.

**Laurel Rd Widening:** The resolution in support of Laurel Road was approved and sent to Sarasota County. It will be a few months for the full engineering work to be done.

**Candidate Forum:** Michael reported that the External Affairs Committee met with all the council candidates, with the exception of incumbent Helen Moore. The feedback on the forum was very positive. Roger provided a debrief which follows in these minutes.

**Public Workshops:**

- (1) Michael attended a public workshop on a multi-family rental housing to be built on Knights Trail, mixed use. There could be commercial activity such as banks and restaurants.

- (2) Michael attended a public workshop on Visterra of Venice on Laurel Rd in vicinity of the park. This will be a gated community of 330 rental units and rental townhouses, in phase one, another 330 in a phase 2. Entrance will be on Visterra Blvd (to be built). Entrance will be off Laurel across from the Willow Chase entrance. Northern Italian architecture.
- (3) Michael attended a public workshop regarding the Wendy's proposed to be built on Laurel Road in the Mirasol area. Some board members met with the developer separately as well. It will have Northern Italian architecture. Operating hours TBD.

***Membership as reported by Nancy Spokowski:***

Current membership is 960 homes. This has declined several since the last meeting due to people moving out and still waiting for new homeowners to move in. Nancy will start sending out renewals in November.

**Continental breakfast event:** Invitations were sent to 130 email addresses, 9 people have RSVP'd. There was discussion amongst the board speculating reasons for the small number of RSVPs. Are people not interested? Is it too early in the season and would there be more interest or greater attendance in January? More invitations will be sent out to the next group of invitees along with encouragement for replies.

***Debrief of Candidate Forum by Roger Effron:***

Roger solicited feedback from Board members on the candidate forum held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the River Club. Nancy commented that she was pleased about the quality of the video production and that it has improved compared to past productions by Sight & Sound. Several board members commented that the next time we should not have the second slate of candidates sit and wait for the first hour. One candidate reported that the wait made her more anxious. Several board members spoke positively about the event and job well done.

***Seminars and Events update by Roger Effron:***

The River Club has been booked for all of the following events.

The first event is 10/28/21 a "lunch and learn" format. "Keeping the Active Adult Injury Free" presented by Center for Orthopedic and Sports Medicine. Attendees must register in advance. Members only. 60 max.

Election for the two City Council seats #3 and #4 is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a sign at gate; don't forget to vote.

Flags will be put out on November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day.

11/17/21 “Plant it & They Will Come” Renee Pearlman pollinators seminar from 9 – 10:00 a.m. Coffee and scones will be provided.

1/8/22 Bike-O-Rama: Lew said he is all ready for this event and will meet with Bicycles International to finalize the efficiency of the queues. There will be 3 queues again this year.

1/18/22 Volunteer Fair & Show Off: An application will go out in the October Parcels newsletter for those who would like to exhibit. Roger will assign board members to help contact the organizations to exhibit at the volunteer fair.

1/24/22 “Snakes: Friend or Foe” seminar presented by Ms. Pearlman at 5:00 p.m.

2/1/22 “Plant based Nutrition” presented by Dr. Dulaney at 5:00 p.m.

2/15/22 “New Chiefs in Town” ice cream social where people can meet and greet the new chiefs “Sundaes on Tuesdays” followed by conversations with the chiefs.

2/22/22 CPR Training by the VFD 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

3/1/22 Shredfest / Junkfest 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

3/7/22 “Pain in my \_\_\_\_” seminar presented by Dr. Peter Fernandez 5:00 p.m.

3/15/22 Venice Symphony conductor Troy Quinn at 5:00 p.m.

4/7/22 Proposed date for Town Hall Meeting at Laurel Nokomis school cafeteria. John Moeckel has been assigned to contact the school for scheduling. There was discussion amongst the board over the concern of Town Hall being scheduled too late after a number of residents might have departed for the season. Would a Monday night in February or March be preferable?

Comments on the events schedule: Diane brought up that she mentioned in the past not to have seminars in consecutive weeks. She believes there are too many scheduled for March.

Update on new sound system: There is a delay in getting this set up in the River Club because several parts of the new system have shipping delays and have not yet arrived.

***Treasurer’s Report by Fred Baughman:***

2021 Total revenue \$24,598. Total expenses \$29,362. This nets to a \$4,784 loss for the year. Cash available for use is \$23,307. Ample funds are available for our spending needs this year.

***New Business (3 items):***

- (1) Roger Effron presented that he would like to pursue changes to the automation of the Wall of Something on the VGRCCA.US website. He met virtually with Joe Santucci and Michelle Trent to begin the discussion process. It was determined that Michelle would pursue a free trial with NING application web based platform. Michelle will work with a few board members to try out this format to see if it will meet our needs and present findings at the next meeting. Several board members expressed concerns about what to do about negative posts and the administration required to audit the posts.
  
- (2) John Moeckel will be the moderator for the candidate forum sponsored by VASI, Venice Aviation Society Inc. It will be held Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at city hall on Venice Ave. There will be an ad in the Gondolier on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and again Oct 20<sup>th</sup>. It is open to all residents of Venice. John did the same thing last year and there was a very large turnout.
  
- (3) Jerry Jasper would like to resign from the VGRCCA board and is recommending Rich Caupro to be his replacement to fulfill his term. Rich is available after November 17<sup>th</sup> when his term on City Council ends. Jerry's term expires March 31, 2022.

***Upcoming Meeting:***

The next meeting will be November 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

***Adjournment:***

A motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted,***

Michelle Trent, Secretary