

**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 November 8, 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
Mark Faford

Absent: John Moeckel, Lew Perry

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.

Michelle Trent's presentation on the Wall of Something:

Roger asked Joe Santucci and Michelle Trent to investigate how we could automate the Wall of Something on the community association's website. Roger's concerns were that the process is currently labor intensive where a person (i.e. Pam or Roger) needs to take a post every day that was submitted, review it, revise it if corrections are needed, and then manually post it to the Wall of Something web page. Given the fact that this is a manual process, given the technology today, it is recommended this process be automated. Also, it was requested by several board members to possibly make the Wall of Something private so that no one outside the VGRC community could have access to it even though with our manual system we once in a while have individuals outside the community wanting to post. It was recommended that those who accessed the Wall of Something would do so with a user ID and password.

After discussing the requirements with Roger and listening to comments from board members about future changes to the Wall of Something, Michelle and Joe discussed some technology options. Michelle then spent several hours reviewing various website applications to explore their viability with this project. Michelle presented to Roger and the board that she believed

that Ning would be the application best suited and that with the board's permission we began a free trial of Ning. Michelle set up a web page using the Ning application and gave access to Joe, Nancy, Mark, and Fred. Nancy and Mark gave positive feedback and agreed that Ning was very easy to use and customizable to our needs. Joe Santucci also accessed the trial site to take a look at what programming would be needed and estimate his time to customize it for VGRCCA. He believes that his work will not exceed \$330. This includes all set up and programming as well as training the administrators.

Board discussion: Michael asked how many visits the Wall of Something has now. Roger answered that there were 189 visits to the Wall of Something in the first week of November 2021. There are at least 100 posts to the Wall per year. Jerry suggested that we look at Google Analytics before the change and after to monitor any change in use of the Wall after improvements are made. Michael asked how Pam would be involved, Roger would like to continue to involve Pam because she has been integral to the Wall of Something to date. Nancy commented that we should retain Pam to do the bulk of the administration. Diane commented about having honest reviews. There was much discussion about what types of posts would be allowed. No comments will be permitted about the River Club, CDD, POA, etc.

The motion was made to upgrade and automate the Wall of Something on the VGRCCA.us website. The motion was seconded and approved with one Board member opposed.

External Affairs as reported by Michael Wendroff:

NE Venice Park: A deal has been negotiated for \$1.5 million dollar purchase price of the 5 acre parcel on Laurel Rd. At the November 16th council meeting Michael and Mr. Clinch will make the presentation to purchase this property. If approved, Sarasota County will need to release the park impact fees, and it will need zoning changed to government. The estimate is 4 to 5 months for Sarasota county funding/ closing on land, then a few months for zoning approvals and engineering/ architectural designs, then approval of construction funding. So minimum 8 months likely to start of construction.

Laurel Rd Widening: Jerry reported that County commissioners are all on board with the Pat Neal public-private partnership road widening project. Mr. Neal says that it is anticipated that at the December Sarasota County Commissioner meeting there will be a clear conclusion on release of \$1 million in mobility finds (including for full Stantec engineering work), and the right of way acquisition issue.

Election Day: The board discussed that the turnout for the City council race was low compared to the last election day... 39% city wide and 38% for the Venetian. Post note: The Venetian district was #1 in total number of people who voted in all of Venice, and we have had almost 500 views of our candidate forum.

New Developments: Michael noted a Public Workshop will be held on a 18 acre parcel of land at Rustic Rd and Ranch Rd (near I-75).

Membership as reported by Nancy Spokowski:

Membership is currently at 967 homes. She is starting to see a lot of renewals. Parcels has helped with that. There are 11 new members that weren't members last year; 4 of these are from the new resident event held on November 5th. She thanked those board members who attended the event as well as spoke at the event. It went well and we should consider doing something like this again. Several board members complimented Nancy and the committee for doing a fine job of planning and executing the new member orientation event.

Seminars and Events:

It was discussed that we could have the Town Hall meeting at Laurel Nokomis School on February 28, 2022. The planning committee will be Diane, John, Michael, and Roger. Roger commented that 90% of people leave after the hour of presentations. In the second hour do we still want to have the Q & A?

Roger suggested that due to the uncertainty of Covid, we should do a "Parcels Town Hall" in 2022 instead of an in person event. We received many compliments about our 2021 Parcels Town Hall edition as a way to keep everyone updated. The Board agreed to this. No live Town Hall for 2022.

Diane stated that April 11, 2022 will be the date for the annual meeting at 5p.m.

Roger reported that the recent "Lunch and Learn" reached maximum attendance of 60 people. Good feedback. Speaker provided a lot of information.

"Plant it and They Will Come" is next seminar on November 17th.

Volunteer Fair and Show Off: Roger asked Mark to help out in the planning of this event.

Fill the barrels with food with Ajax: the barrels are overflowing. Great cooperation with Ajax. Photo taken 3pm on Wednesday and they will load the barrels. Outpouring of support.

Update on A/V equipment:

The A/V cart which was purchased for River Club has arrived. It has been plugged in and it works. Easy to use. River Club needs new projector for Powerpoint presentations; the one they have doesn't have enough projection power.

Hurricane Readiness Team:

Hurricane season ends on November 30th. Great team. Full inventory of supplies. Leadership team has met. Roger would like to turn over the HRT leadership to someone else. Roger would like the board to appoint someone to take over by May 2022.

Roger would like to serve breakfast to the HRT volunteers on December 1st at 7:30 a.m. which would include bagels and coffee. Roger will purchase the bagels. He'd like the CA to fund the \$7.50 per person coffee beverage service for 50 people to say "thank you" for their help. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Email blasts:

Roger complimented Nancy on a good job with the e-blasts. Parcels has a very large open rate, often 80% or greater. E-blasts not in Parcels have lower open rate.

Treasurer's Report by Fred Baughman:

The P&L statement shows a deficit of \$5,561 due to the purchase of the A/V cart for the River Club. We have \$22,510 cash available on hand.

Fred reported the CA has \$109,000 total cash with no more than \$30,000 a year in expenses. The board needs to look at opportunities to use money wisely to invest back into our community.

Fred gave the 2021-2022 seminars and events calendar to Joe Santucci to be uploaded to the website today.

New Business:

Jerry Jasper stated that he is resigning from the board at the end of this meeting. He has enjoyed 11 years on this board. Jerry received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the board members for his service.

Upcoming Meeting:

The next meeting will be December 13, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. at the River Club.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Trent, Secretary