

VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
Lake Miona Recreation Center 1:00 PM June 24, 2021

Board Members - Present: Karl Arps, Fred Briggs, John Conboy, Russ D’Emidio, Peter Moeller, Peter Russell, Vivian Stephens, Phil Walker

Board Members - Absent: Steve Printz, Diane Spencer, Chuck Wildzunas

Invited Attendees: Joan Sullivan - VHA Secretary

Call to order: President Phil Walker called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Phil asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Phil asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer John Conboy referred members to the financials attached to this meeting’s agenda. John noted membership dues were good in May and printing costs for VHA newspaper the Voice are coming down.

Q. How long before funds run out?

A. Currently the VHA has \$75, 000. Including investments, this brings the amount up to \$85,000. The 2022 VHA Hoedown is in the planning stages. Sumter County Tourism no longer provides grants, which had assisted previous hoedowns.

Expanding VHA Bingo is planned to bring in more revenue.

Old Business

VHA Upcoming Programs:

- July 12th at 7:00 PM in Colony Recreation Center is an open meeting for VHA members and residents to hear District Manager Richard Baier and Chief Cain discuss issues facing emergency ambulance delays. Ten options to consider were offered to solve these issues. The District and the Villages Safety Department are recommending option 9, which places the responsibility for the Villages ambulance services with the District. Sumter County has created an ad hoc Committee to study the issue and make a recommendation to the County on the best way to proceed. They meet every two weeks to hear from community members and experts.

Note: After this meeting it was learned, the ad hoc Committee meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Wildwood Community Center.

Fred Briggs stated the District appears more competent to handle the area within the Villages. It is important to attend these meeting to listen to the discussions. Fred noted putting the Villages in charge might push UF Health to improve hospital emergency services. This meeting is held every other week. Efforts will be made to learn the location.

Q. Can the July 12th meeting be videotaped and placed on the VHA website?

A. Yes, this is costly. Efforts will be made to contact the District and Tangent Media for a videographer.

Note: The program with Bradley Arnold – Sumter Country Administrator is now moved to September 8th at 7:00 PM in Lake Miona Recreation Center. This will work better since the Sumter County budget will have been presented therefore allowing Bradley to discuss it further.

- VHA New Resident Night: The Clerk of the Court and the Judge have not begun to attend NRN yet due to Covid concerns but may return in July. CERT is planning to return in October.
- July 19th program at Everglades Recreation Center featuring Community Watch is an open meeting to provide VHA visibility to residents south of SR 44 and to encourage people to join the VHA.
- VHA Town Hall is July 20th at 10:00 AM in Laurel Manor Recreation Center. This meeting is open only to VHA Officers and Neighborhood Representatives. Questions are due by Tuesday July 13th.
- VHA Golf Cart Safety Clinic: The Villages Insurance has now opened its office to GCS. One of the VHA GCS instructors will conduct this clinic twice a month to a small group.

Q. Is there an opportunity for attendees to join the VHA?

A. Yes, the application is available and membership is encouraged during the program.

- **Cutting the Cord:**

Q. Is “Cutting the Cord” offered soon?

A. The plan is to present this program but it has not been scheduled yet.

Peter Moeller volunteered to help organize “Cutting the Cord”. Mike Burke – VHA Program Director will be contacted regarding this.

- **July 21st Volunteer Social:** Plans are being developed to create an afternoon ice cream social for VHA volunteers, Neighborhood Representatives and people interested in becoming a VHA volunteer.

Q. May Board members attend this event?

A. Yes, absolutely.

Suggestion: Include RSVP in the emailed invitation for a more accurate ice cream order.

- **VHA Bingo:** A Bingo Coordinator, Caller and Emcee are in place for the July 27 Bingo 6:30 PM in La Hacienda Recreation Center.

Vivian Stephens volunteered to help with the July Bingo.

- **VHA Board of Directors Annual Review Meeting:** The VHA BOD Annual Review is scheduled for October 21 at 1:00 PM at Sea Breeze Recreation Center. Russ D’Emidio asked the value of a review since Covid restrictions this past year prevented the VHA providing regular programs. Russ offered to review what progress was made from last year’s review and make recommendations at the August Board meeting. Decisions will be made at the August Board meeting of how to proceed at the October 21 Board Review meeting.

VHA Helping Hands: Phil explained HH continues to grow. Storage is now in two pods and the VHA office. A small pod is also necessary for VHA storage.

Phil and HH President Bill Gottschalk will be meeting to discuss bringing exposure to VHA HH to the Villages area south of SR 44 using the VHA van. Along with Bill’s presentation a gathering in the Far South area will include a VHA Meet & Greet to inform residents of the VHA mission and programs.

New Business

CDD Issues: Peter M. presented observations and thoughts regarding the many elected positions available for Villages residents. The 116 elected positions include 25 different groups. i.e. CDDs, NSCUDD. AAC, PWAC. “How do you solicit volunteers for elected positions; for VHA positions? What is the motivation – What’s in it for me? What distinguishes VHA from other groups? Do we have a relationship with the Developer? Do we want a relationship with the Developer?”

Peter M. offered to prepare answers to these questions and to present them to the Board for review and discussion.

Executive Vice President: Phil recommended that two Executive Vice Presidents are needed to help with responsibilities north and south of SR 44. Board members are asked to help find and identify possible people who may be interested and capable of leading the VHA. Karl Arps will review VHA documents for the EVP position description.

VHA Town Hall Questions Due July 13th: See Also “VHA Town Hall” under “Old Business – VHA Upcoming Programs.”

Members Comments

Lady Lake VHA Mailboxes: Karl noted the amount of mail for District utilities placed in the VHA mailboxes is slowly being reduced as people become more familiar with the different boxes.

SCORE: Q. What is VHA involvement with SCORE? A. SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) is the nonprofit organization that was asked to review VHA operations and provide feedback a few years ago as the VHA moved forward. SCORE was also asked to provide a facilitator for the first VHA BOD Annual Review.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM

Respectfully submitted, Joan Sullivan

Next Board Meeting: THURSDAY July 22, 2021 Lake Miona Rec Center – Resolute Room