

## **VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes**

**Colony Cottage Recreation Center 1:00 PM September 28, 2023**

**Board Members - Present:** Modesto Alcala, Russ D’Emidio, Mike Dollard, Walter Martin, Peter Moeller, Peter Russell, Ray Viall, Phil Walker, Chuck Wildzunias

**Board Members - Absent:** Fred Briggs, Sandra Rzepecki, Vivian Stephens,

**Invited Attendees:** Al Arnold – President VHA Helping Hands, Cary Blake – Asst VHA Secretary, Marc Langroth – VHA Foundation Co-Chair, Joan Sullivan –VHA Secretary

**Call to order:** President Peter Russell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**Agenda Approval:** Ray Vial asked to add topic “Unruly People” to New Business. Peter asked for a motion to add the requested topic to the agenda. Motion made, seconded and approved.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Peter asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the August 24, 2023 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Mike Dollard reported financials are solvent. Peter reminded Board members they may request a copy of the monthly financial report.

### **Old Business**

**Update Health and Wellness Expo:** Peter reported only three (3) tables have not been sold for the November 14 Health and Wellness Expo. Several potential vendors may commit within the next week. Room layout of tables will be adjusted if not all sold. Peter R. noted the help Peter Moeller has been giving with promotions. Peter M. is collecting logos from vendors to publish in the attendee brochure. Peter R. explained the budget for advertising was anticipated at \$20,000 and is coming in about \$15,000 after scheduling many ads in the Daily Sun newspaper. An ad for the Expo has been placed in the fall issue of “Healthy Living” magazine which is placed in Physician waiting rooms.

Marc Langroth, working with Sandra Rzepecki, reported meeting with staff at District Customer Service to discuss the issue of occupancy and the inadequate one-hour setup time. Staff at Colony Cottage Recreation Center was able to rearrange program schedules to allow the HW Expo to setup beginning at 12:00 pm ahead of the 3:00 pm opening. An email request for volunteers has been sent to Area Vice Presidents who will recruit volunteers from their Neighborhood Representatives (NR) and their neighbors.

**Update Safe Mobility for Life:** Peter R. reminded members of the 1:00 pm October 9 program at Colony Cottage RC presented by FDOT. A meeting was held for FDOT representatives with a representative from Villages Health and Joan Sullivan to help plan a walking program provided by FDOT at 9:00 am November 3 at Lake Miona RC. Peter M. suggested the walking program might tie in with issues presented to the Issue Team and concerns for safety on Morse Blvd north of CR 466.

**Update: VHA Foundation:** Marc reported from the Foundation balance of \$9, 416.40 grant donation were made in September to: Villagers for Veterans - \$2000, Shared Harvest Gardens - \$535, and Operation Shoebox - \$1000. This year to date the Foundation has distributed \$16,035. Donations received for the hurricane relief initiative now total \$5, 410.  
Q. Will another eBlast to members be sent requesting donations for hurricane relief?  
A. Requests will be made to the whole community rather than requesting exclusively from VHA members.

**Revisions: Reporting to the Board:** Russ D’Emidio explained that part of Board oversight is to review the progress and plans of VHA programs. A previous plan to have committee chairs and program leaders report annually at Board meetings added an additional meeting to their volunteer efforts. The proposal sent to the Board ahead of this meeting modifies the process. Program leaders and Committee Chairs will be asked to submit a brief summary to the President of their current year’s accomplishments and goals for the next year. Benefits realized with this approach allows the President to “pull together an overall summary for the year” for a President’s State of the VHA email / Voice article and removes the need for “an extensive Strategic Planning effort.” Following discussion a motion was made to accept the proposal for the “VHA Board of Directors Oversight of VHA Programs and Committee,” seconded and approved. Russ will prepare a document of procedure for the proposal and attend the October Advisory Board meeting to explain to AB members.

## **New Business**

**Dependent Fire District:** Peter R reported the VHA had put together a list of qualified applicants for the proposed Villages Dependent Fire District, which was “shot down” by the Sumter County Commissioners who want applications open to all residents. Peter encouraged Board members to apply if interested. The five (5) VHA selected applicants each applied independently and will be among the applicants considered for the initial Board. Fred Briggs has taken the lead on this effort to place positive, constructive candidates to the Dependent Fire District Board. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the VHA cannot support a candidate but can support the process and qualification needed for fair minded qualified candidates.

Peter R. noted he would be meeting with Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce to get a better sense of this area of The Villages.

Phil Walker explained CDD 8 had two (2) openings for CDD supervisors. Several people went out into the community to explain and promote to residents the importance of applying for these positions, which are now filled. Making the effort to reach residents and inform them of the need for their involvement in the CDD government is key.

**Restructuring Areas:** Peter explained that VP North Karl Arps has requested to step down at the end of the year in order to volunteer on the Architectural Review Committee. ARC requires many hours of work each week and Karl felt he could not give the appropriate time to Area VP responsibilities. With excessive expansion occurring south of SR 44, it was decided to structure the VHA into two (2) areas separated by SR 44. VHA North will be lead by current VP Central Tweet Coleman and Asst VP Central Dan Kapellen beginning in January. Their positions will be renamed VP and Asst VP North respectively. NR Phyllis Archibald has agreed to assist Tweet as a second Asst VP North. VP South Dave Fountaine working with Asst VP South Mike Williamson will also add a second Asst VP South.

**Tour of the New Charter High School:** Peter R. asked who would be interested in a one hour tour of the new Charter High School in Middleton. All attending Board members and invitees agreed. Peter will contact Dr. McDaniel to learn the date and time.

**October Board Annual Review:** Russ reminded the Board of the annual meeting to review the Board’s performance. Discussion determined that any specific Board performance issue could be added as an agenda item of a monthly Board meeting. Following discussion, a motion was made to cancel the room reservation for October 19.

Q. What about fiscal oversight?’

A. That is a separate item.

**Unruly People:** Ray Viall reported several instances of aggressive, abusive behavior toward residents in a historic side neighborhood, Spanish Springs town square and St. Andrews adult pool. After reaching out to Lady Lake police without helpful results, Ray asked if the VHA could help solve the problems. Peter R. stated he would meet with District Manager Kenny Blocker to report the issues and learn what might be done to make the appropriate agencies aware and resolve the problems.

## **Members’ Comments**

**Helping Hands Training:** Al Arnold explained Marc and Jeff Hamlin do an outstanding job training HH volunteers. Board members are welcome to attend.

**VHA Office – South:** Peter R. asked Dr. Lester to consider allocating a space for the VHA in Eastport to be treated the same as the VHA space in Spanish Springs.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Sullivan

**Next Board Meeting:**

**Thursday – 1:00 pm – October 26, 2023 – Lake Miona RC – Resolute room**