

VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
Lake Miona Recreation Center 1:00 PM April 28, 2022

Board Members - Present: Karl Arps, Fred Briggs, John Conboy, Russ D’Emidio, Greg Panjian, Vivian Stephens, Phil Walker, Chuck Wildzunas

Board Members - Absent: Peter Moeller

Invited Attendees: Al Arnold – VHA Helping Hands President, Ellie Decker – VP Central, Dave Fountaine – VP Far South, Gary Frigiola – Asst VP Far South, Peter Russell- VHA Executive Vice President, Joan Sullivan-VHA Secretary

Call to order: President Phil Walker called the meeting to order at 1:06 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 March 24, 2022 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer John Conboy informed members the amount of loss has improved. It is not as much as previous months. Bingo profits are helping. John was thanked for his work with the financial reports.

New Business

Introduction – New VHA Officers: Phil noted the Board having discussed meeting VHA Area Vice Presidents have the newly appointed Area VPs at this meeting to introduce themselves.

Ellie Decker – VP Central: Originally from Kansas and worked as a business owner with a focus protective of those most vulnerable and senior citizens. Ellie reported she will be conducting a Meet & Greet with Central Region Directors and Neighborhood Representatives (NR) on May 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM in Sea Breeze Recreation Center. Ellie will bring snacks asking attendees to bring their own drinks. Meeting agenda and area goals include: signing new VHA members and helping at events.

Dave Fountaine – VP Far South: Dave explained he took over from Interim VP Far South Roger Kass who was a big help. Dave’s experience includes retired military and work as city manager. As the Far South region is so new, there are monthly programs scheduled to October to help educate the residents. Starting with zero (0) NRs there are now twelve (12) in the Far South with the goal of having one NR in each Village. Almost all the Far South Villages have a Facebook page where NRs can post and promote VHA information. The previous evening’s program at Ezell Recreation Center was a PowerPoint presented by a representative of the City of Wildwood with 150 guests attending.

Gary Frigiola – Asst VP Far South: Gary moved from Long Island, NY to the east coast of Florida. Gary retired from the sheriff’s department. While working, Gary was also a volunteer firefighter. Having worked with many youth groups, Gary assisted at PAL upon moving to Florida. Moving to The Villages, Gary saw the announcements seeking an Assistant VP Far South and Foundation Committee members. Gary is working with now Dave and also Vivian Stephens VHA Foundation Committee Chair.

Karl Arps – VP North: Phil asked Karl, member of the VHA Board of Directors, to report on Karl’s position as VP North. Karl explained he is searching for an Assist VP North. Yesterday, April 27th, Karl led the quarterly meeting with North NRs. As the Villages is promoted as The Healthiest Hometown, Karl asked NRs to draft an outline of what would be included in a program as they reviewed aspects from the 2017 “Living to 100” program. As the agenda was sent ahead of the meeting, there was a good turnout of NRs to discuss this topic.

Phil noted that while many programs are open to all residents they are also being reviewed to identify which will be for Members-only.

Al Arnold, VHA Helping Hands (HH) President explained to the VPs that HH is willing to come to programs or NR meetings to explain about HH.

Old Business

VHA Website Update: Executive Vice President Peter Russell explained the AVPs worked with Doug Smiley of Tangent Media to learn uses of the back-end features of the website for best ways to communicate with membership.

Kathy Porter, Membership Chair, is still dealing with “How to do ...?” questions as people sign into membership. This is beginning to improve.

Peter noted that there is still a great deal more that can be done with the website regarding marketing and sponsorships. Peter encouraged the Board to use their writing skills and send articles to post on the website. Phil added that Board member Peter Moeller will be sending reports from PWAC for posting. Additionally, Wildwood has a link to their newsletter that will be added.

VHA Foundation Committee (FC) Update: Vivian reported the committee members are eager to move forward as they are working on developing the application for receiving grants from FC and ways to reach out to Villages lifestyle groups. FC hopes to be self-sufficient by the end of 2023. While some members had to resign, a new member Carol Duggan was added.

Peter asked the Board for clarification of who may receive FC grants. Response given is to “look first in The Villages” and to find groups who have difficulty raising funds and where to get the most for the money. Phil added many groups will benefit from small amounts of money.

It is important that photos are taken to help publicize FC goals and need for support. VPs and Board members can also suggest groups for FC to consider. John reminded to prepare a Thank You letter to send to those who make donations.

Q. Should suggestions of groups FC might consider be sent to Vivian?

A. Yes. Vivian’s email is Vestephens@comcast.net

Tickets – VHA “Evening With the Developer”: Tickets have been ordered in advance of the box office opening for VHA members. Those requesting tickets will receive an email notice from the VHA Secretary for distributing and receiving tickets. Phil explained the CDD supervisors were provided advance tickets in the past but not this year. This year the invitation was given specifically to those who have worked with the VHA.

New Business – cont’d

VHA Bylaws Revisions: Phil asked Karl Policy Committee Chair to report. Karl explained the current Bylaws needed updating due to changes in operations and needed clarifications. “Membership meetings” have been revised to “Members-only meetings.” “Past President” has been revised to “Immediate Past President.” Request made for a motion to approve the revised Bylaws sent ahead of this meeting. Motion made to approve the revised Bylaws, seconded and approved. President Phil Walker and Secretary/Treasurer John Conboy signed the current VHA Bylaws April 28, 2022.

2023 Forecast – “Living to 100”: Peter reported the President, Secretary and Area VPs met with Peter to discuss ideas and goals for 2023. Quality not quantity is the aim which reduced the current fourteen (14) VP programs presented annually to seven (7) programs. VPs North and Central will work together to present programs and VPs South and Far South will work together. All VHA officers along with AVPs will be asked for assistance in developing “Living to 100” as a program and/or aspects of this program.

Russ D’Emidio noted when residents expressed concerns over lack of primary care doctors, The Villages pushed to address this problem and now has many Primary Care facilities. As the VHA goals include presenting educational programs, VHA partnering with healthcare is important.

Members Comments

Coleman Ridge CDD: Chuck Wildzunas reported he is working on a board as the Coleman Ridge CDD is developed for Village workforce residents. While these are residents in a CDD outside the The Villages the VHA may want to think of ways to Partner with this group. The next meeting for this development will be in August this year. Phil asked Chuck to continue to review this partnering possibility for discussion with the Board.

YouTube – “Villages New Comers”: Greg Panjian reported that Jerry and Linda Cook have two (2) video show @ week reporting positive information promoting aspects of living in The Villages. Suggestion to invite them to New Resident Night, encourage them to become VHA members and promote the VHA.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM

Respectfully submitted, Joan Sullivan

Next Meeting: THURSDAY 1:00 PM May 26, 2022 Revised to: Pimlico - Card Room