

VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
Lake Miona Recreation Center 1:00 PM October 27, 2022

Board Members - Present: Karl Arps, Fred Briggs, Russ D’Emidio, Mike Dollard, Phil Walker, Chuck Wildzunas

Board Members - Absent: Peter Moeller, Greg Panjian, Vivian Stephens

Invited Attendees: Al Arnold – VHA Helping Hands President; Peggy Fiore – VHA Foundation Committee Chair; Peter Russell- VHA Executive Vice President, 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 September 22, 2022 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Mike Dollard referred to the financials attached to this meeting’s agenda noting pages added to show bills that were paid.

Q. What is 2023 budget process?

A. Budgets from VHA and VHA-HH will be presented at the November Board meeting.

Old Business

VHA Foundation Committee (FC) - Update: Foundation Committee Chair Peggy Fiore reported FC initially began with \$6000 in their budget. The first approved FC grant requests gave \$500 to the Girl Scouts Alumnae. This organization places boxes in the recreation centers for holiday donations/gifts. The \$500 was for new pajamas and books for needy children. Shared Harvest Garden received a \$1000 donation. A FC article with photo in the Daily Sun caused an anonymous donor to donate \$7000 to the FC. The donor requested \$2000 to be given to the Girl Scout Alumnae, a portion given to the hospital auxiliary and the rest to appropriate non-profits. After Hurricane Ian, the FC approved a plan to email VHA members announcing a 30 period when every FC donation received would be used for Florida victims of Hurricane Ian. The deadline is November 5, 2022. To date \$5400 has been donated for this purpose. The same anonymous donor recently sent a check for \$5000 for the hurricane victims. Now FC is strategizing how to distribute the donations. Using Charity Navigator, four (4) potential sources have been identified: Humane Society of Naples; Feeding the Gulf Coast; Convoy of Hope – a network of volunteers and trucks bringing in food, water, diapers, etc.; Florida Disaster Fund. Mike volunteered to check with the sheriff’s office if they knew particular groups to consider.

Q. Are all the groups that have been identified 501(c)(3)?

A. This will be checked to verify.

Suggested: It is good to publicize that FC donations are being sent to organization who use the fewest funds for administrative costs.

Mike noted the VHA pays a fee for each donation made through credit cards.

Self-Evaluation Meeting – Follow Up: Russ D’Emidio referred to the list of Action Items generated from the VHA Board Self-Evaluation Meeting. This list corresponds with the bullets in the Self-Evaluation Meeting minutes sent with the agenda for this meeting. It was decided to set a timetable for many of the items. Karl offered to prepare the draft of the Nominating Committee Charter and provide a Policies update by the November Board meeting. Karl stated the draft of the position description for VHA President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary would be ready by the December meeting. Russ and Joan Sullivan will draft by the November Board meeting a schedule of when Program Directors / Committee Chairs will provide an annual report to the Board. Mike will prepare the financials for audit after the end of the year and identify who else may be involved with the audit.

Added to the Action Items list: To analyze the documents in the website back office – ID who should have access; what documents need to be stored there; where to store meeting minutes, financials; Outlines of how programs work.

Strategic Planning Workshop – Follow Up: Russ thanked everyone for their efforts during the Strategic Planning Workshop. Russ will merge his notes with the draft of the meeting minutes to send next week.

VHA Board Member Term Limits: Phil reported the election of VHA officers will occur during the December Board meeting. Board members whose term limit expires in December have been contacted and asked their intentions to continue. Karl Arps responded to not continue as Board member in order to concentrate on the position of VHA VP North; Vivian Stephens responded she would like to depending on medical issues; Chuck Wildzunas will respond to Peter Russell when Chuck has reached a decision. Peter R. will conduct the elections.

Review of Board Training Documents: This topic addressed training documents for new Board members. It was decided Peter R. and Russ will review Board documents to identify which will be placed in a training package for new Board members and other relevant considerations.

New Business

VHA Areas Revised: Phil explained Ray Lammes had accepted the position of VP South but decided to decline the position not feeling comfortable as a resident of VHA Central region. After reviewing the differences between VHA North, Central, South and Far South the decision was made to keep North and Far South regions separate due to their differences of residents and county governments. Central is revised to include regions 5-11 as regions 9-11 from the former South region are very similar to Central. Ellie Decker will continue as VP Central with regions 5-11. This move will be announced to the Executive Board at the November 9, 2022 meeting.

Membership to Long Term Renters: Phil explained this question has been asked to review who may become a member. After discussion noted that short and long term renters have resident ID cards, it is therefore acceptable to allow all Villages residents to become VHA members. Karl noted the Bylaws states “homeowners.” A motion was made to revise the VHA Bylaws to read all “residents” may become members, seconded and unanimously approved.

The Voice: Peter explained the November issue of the Voice will be inserted on the first Wednesday of November as usual. A VHA test of the Voice banner will be in the next day / Thursday edition of the Daily Sun featuring the same article from the front page of the Voice on the referendum for the Villages Independent Fire and Rescue Department. The goal going forward is to print the Voice as a single page in the Daily Sun rather than a supplement inserted into the paper. The plan includes the Voice banner in the paper at least 3 times a month, a marketing approach to get into public view. In addition, a QR code will be added to drive readers to the VHA website. The Board unanimously agreed to move forward with this new format.

Members Comments

VHA Office: Question: Has any new location been found to handle all VHA and VHA Helping Hands operations?
Answer: An ongoing search for an affordable large space continues but nothing found yet.

Board Meeting Invitees: It is a value to have VHA HH President and FC Chair attend the Board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sullivan

Next Board Meeting: WEDNESDAY 1:00 PM November 16, 2022 Lake Miona - Defender Room