

Revised VHA Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes

Lake Miona Recreation Center 1:00 PM May 25, 2023

Board Members - Present: Modesto Alcala, Fred Briggs, Russ D’Emidio, Mike Dollard, Walter Martin, Peter Moeller, Peter Russell, Sandra Rzepecki, Vivian Stephens, Ray Viall, Phil Walker, Chuck Wildzunas

Board Members - Absent: None

Invited Attendees: Al Arnold – VHA Helping Hands President, Peggy Fiore – VHA Foundation Chair, Joan Sullivan – VHA Secretary

Call to order: President Peter Russell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome: Peter welcomed Modesto Alcala as a new Board member. Recently retired from NBC Universal working with theme park design, Modesto said he was looking forward to working with the VHA.

Peter welcomed back Board member Vivian Stephens absent many months for health reasons. Vivian thanked the Board for all their prayers, emails and good wishes.

Agenda Approval: Peter asked for a motion to approve this meeting’s agenda. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Peter asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 27, 2023 meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Mike Dollard asked if any Board members had received a single page financial from the VHA website. Because this stray document was sent from an unknown source, the password to the VHA office computer has been changed. This meeting’s financials ending April 30, 2023 and May 23, 2023 were distributed as hard copies. Future financial reports will be delivered orally. Board members may request copies of financials at any time.

Mike explained the 2023 projection for 2-year membership renewals is \$32,000. To date \$16,000 has been received. Online membership signup has been surprisingly good and seems to be cyclical, although not in a set rhythm.

Peter reminded members beginning January 2023 promotions of New Resident Night occurred through advertising in The Villages Daily Sun newspaper and no longer with letters sent through the postal service. This has saved the VHA a substantial amount of money.

Motion made to file the financial reports for audit, seconded and approved.

Old Business

Update Health and Wellness Expo: Peter reported the first committee meeting for the November 2023 Health and Wellness Expo will be at held 10:00 – 11:30 am June 6, 2023 at Fish Hawk Recreation Center. More committee members will be added going forward with the goal of presenting a professional operation for this first annual event.

Driver Safety & AARP: Chuck Wildzunas distributed packages of driver safety materials from the Safe Mobility for Life Program affiliated with Florida Department of Transportation and Florida State University’s Department of Psychology. The VHA is the only partner of this program in The Villages. Board members are asked to review the materials in the Safe Mobility for Life package and the CarFit checklist (emailed Friday May 26, 2023) to consider how the VHA may use this information to provide driver safety sessions to members and Villages resident.

Capt. Siemer of the Sumter Co. Sheriff’s office, also a certified CarFit technician welcomes efforts for such a program. Additionally, Peter Russell, Phil Walker and Joan Sullivan will review the “Community Partner Handbook” for services provided by SMFL program.

Further discussion of VHA involvement in providing a driver safety program will be on the agenda for the June Board meeting.

Chuck is a trained technician certified to train others as technicians for CarFit, a program provided through AARP.

Note: A 45 minute video is available from CarFit.

Q. Is this to consider going back to the CarFit program?

A. This is more of an integration of Safe Mobility for Life and CarFit.

Updates VHA Foundation: Peggy Fiore reported the Foundation is updating guidelines for submitting grant requests ahead of the Hurricane Relief Initiative beginning June 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023. Four (4) non-profit organizations in the Fort Meyers, FL area are being vetted before asking them to submit a request for a grant. Foundation

Committee members Marc Langroth and Bev Rovelli will coordinate the hurricane relief effort with The Villages Daily Sun. The VHA Foundation will accept donations designated for hurricane relief.

An article in The Villages Daily Sun covering the New Horizon Service Dogs organization acknowledged the funds they received from the VHA Foundation. Note: Organizations receiving Foundation grants are asked to promote the VHA

Update: July Town Hall: Peter explained an Issues Team is forming to handle Villages / neighborhood related questions and concerns as soon as received. Previously responses were provided during a quarterly Town Hall meeting. Past Presidents Phil Walker and Roger Kass will cover questions related to the north and south regions respectively. An additional person will be recruited to address those from the central region. The goal is to create a more substantial information session during Town Hall meetings. To provide education and relevant data to point-of-contact VHA Leaders and Neighborhood Representatives to help them educate their area residents. A document will be prepared quarterly by the Issues Team to inform the Developer, District Government and Law Enforcement of questions/concerns that have been addressed during the past three (3) months.

UF Health Central Florida CEO Heather Long has agreed to shift a regular Tuesday meeting in order to discuss progress of The Villages Hospital at the Tuesday July 18, 2023 Town Hall meeting at 10:00 am at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center. The meeting will begin with a few questions for the VHA partners representatives from the Developer, District Government and Law Enforcement. Following this brief Q & A Heather Long will discuss the Hospital. This is planned as a casual setting allowing for an open dialogue.

Suggestion: Continue the stream of information related to the Hospital with monthly updates to VHA Leaders and NRs.

New Business

VHA Sponsors & Patrons: Peter reported a new section of the VHA website is being developed to promote sponsors and patrons. As the VHA Merchants to Members program has not been effective, a shift will begin to ask merchants to become sponsors/patrons of the VHA with an annual donation that will go directly toward fundraising for the Foundation. The merchants will be given space on the VHA website, promoted to members through eBlasts, and posted on screen through the PowerPoint presented ahead of all VHA programs.

Peter Moeller volunteered to work on a format for adding promotions of sponsors/patrons to the PowerPoint presentation at all VHA meetings.

VHA Board Self Evaluation 2022 Action Items Status: Strategic Planning Chair Russ D'Emidio referred to the Board Self Evaluation 2022 Action Items Status document sent to members ahead of this meeting noting that most items have been accomplished with only a few ongoing. At either the August or September Board meeting the Board will decide if a separate meeting will be held for further Board self-evaluation. Board members are asked to contact Russ with any areas on which the Board needs to focus. Russd601@yahoo.com

Q. What is happening with VHA Leaders reporting to the Board?

A. The first tentatively scheduled reports are from the three (3) Area VPs at the June Board meeting. This topic was on the May agenda of the Executive Board meeting and a decision for June as the best date for AVPs to report to the Board will be decided at the June 14, 2023 EB meeting.

General Meetings 2023 Revised: Peter explained the September and December VHA General Meetings are cancelled to focus time and effort on the Health & Wellness Expo scheduled in November. A meeting will be planned for 2024 combining the Volunteer Appreciation Event and VHA Awards.

Harassment: Peter stated that as the VHA President it is important that he make a statement to all VHA Leaders when representing the VHA and wearing a VHA name badge that all Leaders and Volunteers need to behave appropriately when addressing colleagues and guests. If a person declines a hug, then hugging that person is an inappropriate act of harassment.

SEE: VHA POLICY 3.2 SEXUAL HARASSMENT SENT WITH THIS MEETING'S MINUTES

Comments:

Communications Team: More volunteers are needed for the Communications Team to assist the Issues Team with writing and editing.

Message Signs: Suggestion made to purchase and post message signs around The Villages announcing VHA events and programs. The policy of The Villages is reduced signage. The possibility of posting in shopping centers will be researched. Currently, The Villages Daily Sun and WVLG provide VHA announcements.

VHA Brand Name and Logos: Peter M. distributed the formalized VHA brand name and logo, which has color and font specified for continuity when heading VHA documents and preparing VHA promotions. Peter M. worked with Tangent Media to develop this standardization. Tangent will prepare and send a file with a variety of options for using the logos which will be placed in the back-end office of the VHA website for officers to access.

Motion made to accept the logos as designed, seconded and approved.

Motion made to proceed with funding the replacement of all name badges for VHA Leaders and Neighborhood Representatives, seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sullivan

Next Board Meeting: Thursday 1:00 PM June 22, 2023 Lake Miona RC – Resolute room