

Myakka Valley Ranches Improvement Association, Inc.

Board Minutes, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church, 8700 State Road 72, Sarasota, FL 34241

Proper Notification of meeting permanently posted on sign at the guardhouse.

Board meets on the third Monday each month.

MVRIA Rule Meeting Attendance Reminder is posted and available on
MVRIA website (MVRIA.com)

Frank DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:07 and declared a quorum.

Board members present were Frank DiCicco, Jackie Vizzi, Vicki Butler, Amy Chenard, Deb Houston, Wendy Ying, and Brenda Zimmerman.

Karen Abbattista, Jennifer Peeples, Mary Mapp, and Heather Nestle were absent.

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING April 21, 2018.

Frank DiCicco moved to approve the minutes for the board meeting on April 21, 2018.

Deb Houston seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- 1. President's Report:** Frank DiCicco reported that the Annual Meeting went very well. He thanked the Events Committee for the BBQ after the Annual Meeting. Karen Abbattista resigned from the board due to time constraints. Any members wishing to serve on the board should contact a board member. The Back Country Horseman Association is a national organization that is dedicated to keeping trails open. Frank DiCicco urged residents to join this organization. Frank DiCicco cited research conducted by the Federal Highway Authority that stated saddle trails need to be trimmed 12 feet high. This research gives MVRIA a basis for trail standards.
- 2. Secretary's Report:** Jackie Vizzi reviewed the draft roster for the MVRIA Board members and committee members. PCM is the registered agent for MVRIA.
- 3. Vice-President:** No report
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Vicki Butler did not have a report because PCM is working on the year-end statement.
- 5. Document Revision and Lawsuit Committee:** Frank DiCicco reported the ruling on the Lyday appeal has not been delivered. The interest reduction program has helped with the collection of dues arrears. MVRIA can charge 18% but can lower the interest rate to 4%. Members in arrears on their dues will be taken to court and subsequently to

mediation. Terms for payment are negotiable. Late fees are non-negotiable. Frank DiCicco made a motion to give board members in the mediation process the leeway to negotiate the interest rate from 18% to as low as 4%. Amy Chenard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

6. **Road Committee:** The poll at the Annual Meeting indicated members were in favor of speed tables rather than stop signs.
7. **Saddle Trails, Easements, and Ditches Committee:** Frank DiCicco reported that Jake's Trail was cleared by volunteers. The trail is very wet and needs some fill or a bridge. We need to find out whether it is officially wetland.
8. **Community Awareness and Security:** No report.
9. **Compliance, Construction, Parks, Mowing, Signs, Variances, Easements, and Overhanging Trees:** There has been a formal complaint about neighbors running a business out of their houses. There is an ad on Facebook that is alarming some neighbors concerning a person who wants to run a horse camp this summer. The complainant asked, "Is this allowed, and what is the liability to the Valley?" Potential problems include children getting injured on trails, and an increase in traffic. It is important that the traffic increase is only incidental. This especially applies to retail issues. According to Jim Burgess, training horses, riding lessons, and vet services are not prohibited by deed restrictions. The problem is the person who wishes to run the camp is not the homeowner, but is a boarder. A gray area is that the campers who live in the valley have the right to ride the trails. Other issues include licenses and insurance. Frank DiCicco and Wendy Ying will talk to the homeowner.
Wendy Ying stated that most people who have a complaint do not have their phone number in the directory. Jackie Vizzi stated that in that case, a letter should be sent. Wendy Ying made a motion to send a postcard to everyone with a platted saddle trail or platted secondary trail thanking them for maintaining their trail and keeping the trails open. Members who have a closed trail will also receive a postcard that will direct them to contact Wendy Ying so arrangements to clear or open the trail can be made. The motion was seconded by Jackie Vizzi and passed unanimously.
10. **Entrance Beautification Committee:** There is a budget of \$1,000 for shrubs. The Ladies of the Valley Club will be contacted about helping to maintain the oak trees. Wendy Ying and Frank DiCicco will meet with the State Park about the easement access for the stables at arch. The driveway would be a safety hazard to people driving out of the arch. If the easement is approved, the driveway will stay where it has been and the mailbox will be moved back to where it was.

11. **Disaster Preparedness:** Jackie Vizzi stated that new radios will be ordered. There is a Facebook page for Westwood/Myakka Emergency.

12. **Events Committee:** The Committee is planning a parade on July 4th at 10 a.m. with picnic to follow. Amy Chenard asked to use \$310 of the Event's budget to rent a large tent and to purchase paper goods and flatware for the Pot Luck following the parade. Wendy Ying seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Amy Chenard reported that the Adopt-a -Tree program will have a ceremony in the Fall to set the bricks. The people who facilitated the turning lane and the county grant will be acknowledged.

13. **Trails n Tales**

Back Country Horsemen

Fourth of July Parade and Potluck

Jackie Vizzi made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Wendy Ying. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.