

# **Myakka Valley Ranches Improvement Association, Inc.**

## **Board Minutes, October 16, 2017 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 7:15 and declared a quorum. Board members present were Frank DiCicco, Jennifer Peeples, Karen Abbattista, Vicki Butler, Amy Chenard, Deb Houston, Mary Mapp, Heather Nestle, Wendy Ying, and Brenda Zimmerman. Jackie Vizzi was absent with apologies.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING September 18, 2017.**

Frank DiCicco moved to approve the minutes for the board meeting on September 18, 2017. Mary Mapp seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- 1. President's Report:** Fran DiCicco noted that a member has requested to video and audio tape the meetings through December. Frank DiCicco thanked Wendy Ying for bringing the great food for the Round Table. There will not be a board meeting in December. Frank DiCicco welcomed Brenda Zimmerman to the board. She will serve the rest of Lynn Reid's term. Changes in estoppel fees per state statutes were filed with PCM. FEMA will pick up hurricane debris for MVRIA members sometime in November. The 2018 Annual Meeting is set for Saturday April 28, 2019. There will be an organizational meeting directly afterward.
- 2. Vice-President/Treasurer's Report:** Jennifer Peeples reported that MVRIA has a lot of members who have not paid their dues. She will continue to work on collection. There is \$310,687.00 in the Road Reserve Fund. There will be an additional \$75,000 in the fund after the 2018 assessments. Jennifer Peeples thanked Frank DiCicco and Wendy Ying for spending a whole day at PCM updating members' names and addresses.
- 3. Document Committee:** Frank DiCicco reported that Lyday case will be finished in March. The Lydays are now saying that the saddle trail blockage is not on their property. They had a court order to open the trail in July. If it is not done by the end of the month, an injunction will be filed. Frank DiCicco met with members on Prairie Junction that have closed trails. Some of the trails have eroded because of drainage. Some neighbors have fences on the trail that need to be moved. Frank DiCicco discussed the property at the entrance that used to be a public stable. The owner wants to turn it

in to a hunting camp in spite of being right next to the Montessori School. The owner has placed a mailbox on his easement which is right next to the MVR arch. This does not mean we have to take out our oak trees or lights along the entryway. This could be a safety concern because of people speeding through the entrance.

4. **Road Committee:** There are a lot more potholes. They will be filled. The goal is to get approval for the Road Plan by January. Hopefully the roads will be done by the Annual Meeting in April. The speed limit signs and new stop signs will be ready soon. Frank DiCicco priced gates for the entryway. The objective would be to have traffic come to a complete stop at the guard shack. He distributed a picture of a black iron gate that will open automatically. There will be no passcode or entry mechanism; it will have an electric eye. There will be one on each side of the guard shack. If MVR is a gated community, it is likely to make everyone's homeowners' insurance lower. The gates will cost no more than \$15,350. Frank DiCicco made a motion to approve having the Road Committee get additional bids and then install the security gates at the guard shack. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Peeples and passed unanimously. Frank DiCicco, Jennifer Peeples, and Wendy Ying will sign the order for the gates.
5. **Saddle Trails, Easements, and Ditches Committee:** The board thanked Heather Nestle for organizing the saddle trail clearance. It was suggested that the Saddle Trail Committee rename the trails. Colors were one suggestion i.e. "The Blue Trail". The trails will be mowed again at the end of November. The board will continue to work to maintain trails and open closed trails. Heather Nestle presented the bid for the washout on Singletree. The first option is to use 2 loads of Blue Marie Clay at about \$350 per load. That will last the longest and be the most stable. The other two options were to use scrappings at \$75 per load or to use fill dirt at \$150 per load. The washout will require 2 loads. Heather Nestle made a motion to use the clay because it is better material. The motion was seconded by Karen Abbattista and passed unanimously. Eddie Oyer is donating the labor, so MVRIA doesn't need to get other bids. The saddle trail budget includes \$8,500 for maintenance and \$7,500 for mowing. The money to fill the washout will come out of Saddle Trail Maintenance. Bill Still suggested a volunteer work day in the big park. Heather Nestle agreed.
6. **Compliance, Construction, Parks, Mowing, Signs, Variances, Easements, and Overhanging Trees:** Wendy Ying presented maps showing that MVRIA owns a strip of property on Old Ranch Road. There is a ditch that needs to be cleared on that property. Wendy Ying got a bid of \$1,200.00. The ditch needs to be bush hogged, and pepper trees need to be taken down. Wendy Ying would like to organize a volunteer group to clear the ditch. Wendy Ying made a motion to clear the ditch as a volunteer group. The motion was seconded by Heather Nestle and passed unanimously. The Saddle Trail Committee has been working with the Myakka River State Park. The goal is to link MVR saddle trails with the trails in the state park. The state park would like a group of equestrians to adopt their trails and will provide tractors, equipment, gas, and a plan for maintenance. Riders using the trails in the park will need to check in and out with the

ranger. The owner of the 167 acres at the front entrance is considering turning his hunting camp into a horse camp. He would then welcome MVR riders onto the trails on his 167 acres. It was suggested that MVR could start the Sarasota chapter of Back Country Horsemen of America. Frank DiCicco made a motion to either join the Back Country Horsemen of America organization or create our own to secure the opportunities for a huge trail system including public lands and equestrian developments such as Saddle Oaks, Saddle Creek, etc. Jennifer Peeples seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. **Entrance Beautification Committee:** Jennifer Peeples stated the trees along the entrance will be trimmed on another volunteer day.
8. **Disaster Preparedness:** The committee will be working to revise the plan, and it should be done by the next meeting.
9. **Trails n Tales:** FEMA form for debris. Thank volunteers.
10. Frank DiCicco made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Karen Abbattista. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53.