

Myakka Valley Ranches Improvement Association, Inc.

Board Minutes, November 20, 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 7:25 and declared a quorum.

The extended Round-Table discussion before the board meeting caused the late start.

Board members present were Frank DiCicco, Jennifer Peeples, Jackie Vizzi, Karen Abbattista, Vicki Butler, Amy Chenard, Deb Houston, Mary Mapp, Wendy Ying, and Brenda Zimmerman. Heather Nestle was absent with apologies.

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING October 16, 2017.

Frank DiCicco moved to approve the minutes for the board meeting on October 16, 2017.

Jennifer Peeples seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

1. **President's Report:** Frank DiCicco reminded everyone that there will be no board meeting in December.
2. **Vice-President/Treasurer's Report:** Jennifer Peeples reported that Myakka Valley Ranches earned the Neighborhood Challenge Award from the Sarasota County Commissioners because of MVR's volunteers, Entrance Beautification Project, and "green" elements of the community. The final report for the neighborhood grant will be submitted Wednesday. The \$10,000 grant will be awarded after that. Late notices went to members who have not yet paid their dues. This year the delinquent list is down to one page. MVR has \$311,000 in the Road Reserve fund plus another \$75,000 that will be deposited. The Operating Fund currently has \$85,000.
3. **Document Revision and Lawsuit Committee:** Frank DiCicco reported there was a hearing today about opening the saddle trail behind the Lyday's property. They were ordered by an injunction to open the trail; they did not. Today they were ruled to not be in contempt of court because, according to a new survey, the fence blocking the trail is not on their property. The judge stated that the association does have the right to remove anything that blocks a saddle trail. All platted trails stay as trails; there is no rule that a trail is closed after 7 years. The owners will have 30 days to remove the fence that is blocking the saddle trail. Frank DiCicco will go speak with the homeowners personally about removing the fence. Wendy Ying made a motion to send the owners,

the Gadways, a letter stating that they are in violation of the deed restrictions because of the fence blocking the saddle trail. Jackie Vizzi seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. There are only two people blocking that saddle trail. The board has a responsibility to work to get the saddle trails open.

4. **Road Committee:** Frank DiCicco stated bids to re-do the roads will be solicited this Spring. MVRIA will have about \$550,000 in the road fund. The Road Committee will discuss the stop signs at Myakka Valley Trail and Kickapoo and asks that members with input attend the meeting. Jackie Vizzi asked about the process for soliciting bids and having the roads done. Three or four contractors will be asked to submit sealed bids that meet the requirements of the road plan. The board will vote on which bid to accept. MVRIA will have a project manager to advise the board and to monitor the road work. Drainage issues will be addressed as part of the road project. Culverts will be cleared and the easements will be shaved to a point lower than the road. Potholes are slated to be filled this month.
5. **Saddle Trails, Easements, and Ditches Committee: Compliance, Construction, Parks, Mowing, Signs, Variances, Easements, and Overhanging Trees:** Wendy Ying noted that Chet Sutterline at 6931 Old Ranch Road is building an addition. No variance is needed. Jennifer Peeples reported that all members who have come current on their past dues have had the liens on their houses removed.
6. **Security:** Frank DiCicco spoke about the reasons for installing gates at the guard shack. The gates would open automatically. There were concerns that maintenance could be very costly if the gates were hit by cars. Jennifer Peeples asked for a show of hands of those who are in favor of the gates. The overwhelming majority were in favor.
7. **Entrance Beautification Committee:** Jennifer Peeples stated that the final framing of the signs at the entryway will be done tomorrow. The guidelines and grant submission paperwork was copious and very particular. Funds may only be used for the improvement of our entrance. The grant paid for additional oak trees and lights for the trees. The Adopt-a-Tree program still has about 8 trees left. A tree was purchased in the memory of Vivian Zabik.
8. **Disaster Preparedness:** No report. There will probably be a meeting in January.
9. **Trails n Tales:** Request for a community luminaria date. There will be a neighborhood holiday party on December 20th at Liz and Bill Still's home. Publish the letter from High Hat that was sent to members who abut High Hat. The first Halloween Trick-or-Treating event was coordinated by Amy Chenard. Frank DiCicco made a motion to create a Neighborhood Event Committee with Amy Chenard as the chairperson. The motion was seconded by Karen Abbattista, and it passed unanimously.
10. Frank DiCicco made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Jackie Vizzi. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.