MEETING MINUTES

VENETIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Pool and Fitness Committee Meeting December 19, 2016

In Attendance:

Joy Wolf, acting chair for Jim Summers    Nessa Kleinglass, member
Lisa Plotkin, member                    Peggy Palmer, member, acting secretary
Scott Kissell, River Club manager
Charlie Sandomenico, Director of tennis and fitness
Harry Orenstein, VCDD Board Representative

A. Call to Order

B. Quorum:

Joy made the Call to Order at 2:07. Four members were present. Harry introduced himself as the new CDD Fitness Representative.

C. Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2016

Joy made a motion to accept the minutes. Peggy seconded.

D. Additions to the agenda

There are no new agenda items.

E. Resident input

Joy opened the discussions asking residents to stick to 5 minutes each.

A former Fitness Committee member asked several questions- did the Fitness Committee support fitness class fees? Did they know why the fees were being proposed? Who made the decision to purchase the On Demand Fitness Program? Have fitness class users been asked how much they would use the system? Nessa answered that discussions of fees have gone on for the last couple of years. Last April the CDD decided a decision should be made before the end of the fiscal year. The Fitness Committee voted to recommend that the CDD wait until the fall when more residents were present. Harry Orenstein stated that instituting fees was based on the principle of providing facilities versus services. Cost avoidance was factored in. The CDD felt it needed to consider how the monies were to be spent. Joy stated that the FOD system was not brought to the Fitness Committee. She attended an FOD demonstration but a quorum was not reached for this committee to meet in
October. Harry stated that there was leftover money in the budget and that the CDD saw the FOD as an addition to the program to offer alternatives to the paid classes.

A resident asked where the FOD idea came from and whether the CDD would listen to the Fitness Committee. Charlie said he was instrumental, that these systems are widely used.

Another resident asked how long the fees had been in effect. Scott gave some comparison numbers from Oct/Nov. 2015 to this Oct and Nov. when fees were in effect. He said that we lost 25% of participants.

Two residents stated that the only one of the amenities that they use is fitness classes, and that as single households they are now paying a lot for “nothing.” One of them stressed the high expense of the tennis program that she pays for but doesn’t use. The other stressed that yoga classes should be considered a benefit to all the community.

Charlie was asked who gets the money for tennis clinics that he gives. He responded that he gets the fee and further stated that the fitness instructors are paid by the class through the budget. If they do personal training, they keep that fee.

A resident stated that one argument against pool fees is that anyone can use the pool during a class. He stated that the classes are so large that when he has come with family, the pool cannot feasibly be used by others. Harry responded that the CDD vote was a yes or no. He again cited the “amenity vs. services distinction.

One resident stated that she had been told some time back that due to liability, the room could not be used independently by residents. Charlie clarified that the aerobics room is available for use by residents any time it is not in use.

Peggy gave input from an absent resident who suggested that since the compromise of $3 no fee classes was dismissed, the CDD should lower the fee to $2 per class. She also suggested that Harry come to some of the classes to see what they are all about and see if participants want FOD classes.

**F: MANAGEMENT UPDATES:**

Charlie stated that they have been comparing classes from year to year. He said that adding additional sections due to space constraints has expanded the budget since 2006. He runs reports every Monday. So far in December, fitness classes have been down 31% in unique users compared to last December. In January a lot of new residents will be arriving and this is also the beginning of our busiest 3 months. Lisa stated that some classes have been deleted like the 9:00 group. Nessa feels that we should continue to look at class information and implications. Scott stated that in November 2015 thirty-four classes were offered. In Nov. of this year, 28 classes were offered. Participation was down 60% since last November but unique users was down only 24% meaning that people are taking fewer classes than they used to. Charlie said that instructor Julie was leaving and that Drew would take over the CCT.
class and Yumi the water classes but with changed times. Peggy stated that these changes are already on the calendar and asked that an email go out notifying everyone of these changes and thanking Julie. Charlie said that he would do so. Peggy asked if chair yoga would be added back in season. Scott and Charlie will look at classes in January to see what is working and what is not and will be cutting low attendance classes.

G. CDD Board Update

Harry mentioned the recent traffic workshop and said that no decision has been made about hiring traffic monitors. Joy asked Harry about new committee members. He said that there were 4 candidates for 3 spots. He asked for this committee’s input. After we told him that we don’t have the names, he said he would get them to us. Joy suggested that we try and include a male member as our lone male is leaving the committee. Peggy asked about the potential conflict of interest. Harry stated that there is no longer an issue.

H. Old Business

1. Heaters for pool showers: Scott stated that a plumber was out to check the heaters and that the showers are somewhat warmer but that the cycling system will never produce hot water in the showers.

2. Bench in shower room: Charlie is still working on it. He and Peggy have been in the women’s locker room to see what addition will be safe and useful, possibly shelves and a bench.

3. Pool fees: Joy brought up the inequity of people in indoor classes paying fees while the people in water classes do not. She feels that it’s not impossible to come up with a paying system for those outdoor classes. Scott stated that when he came up with his fee recommendations, he included water classes. He did research on various communities and their fee structures. He said that there isn’t a way to stop non-payers from taking a class. Peggy and Lisa feel that public shaming would be effective; however, Scott said that staff would not police. He stated that providing the FOD system was the CDD’s and management’s effort to compromise. Scott feels that the longer these debates drag on, it becomes more detrimental to the community. Charlie added that he wants the fitness program to be strong with happy participants and instructors. Nessa feels that it is an important discussion for the Fitness Committee to look at the big picture and what is best for the community. Nessa made a motion, seconded by Lisa that in February the Fitness Committee come up with some recommendations to the CDD. Lisa stated that all the amenities cost money and she enumerated some of the expenses involved in maintaining our tennis program.

4. Life Fitness Equipment: Charlie stated the old stepper will be changed to 2 new elliptical machines. An exercise equipment representative will be giving quotes on additional equipment and reconfiguring the gym. Nessa again asked for a spin bike. Charlie stated that the FOD could be used with a spinning bike.
5. New Members: (previously discussed in CDD Board Update).

I. New Business

1. Fitness On Demand proposed classes: Charlie introduced the FOD system, saying it is widely used in many communities. It is a kiosk system that is very easy to use and would take just moments to train someone. Charlie briefly showed what a “Coremageddon” class looks like. He passed out a sample Jan. schedule with FOD classes listed during off hours when no instructor-led classes were scheduled. Scott went over the sample schedule. Sign-up would be during regular class Sunday night sign-ups. Detailed descriptions with instructional levels to over 200 classes will be available when staff is on duty. There was a discussion of when these classes would start. Charlie said that they would rotate to provide variety. Nessa said that she wasn’t comfortable to recommend classes and thought that instructors would be more qualified to do so. Joy stated that now more than ever, class surveys would be helpful. Scott asked Fitness Committee members to take some classes and help tweak the classes. It was decided that some demo days would be offered to familiarize the community with the offerings and workings of the system. Lisa volunteered to assist Charlie with new fitness equipment considered for the fitness center.

J. Adjournment

Just prior to adjournment, Nessa asked Harry about calling in to a committee meeting to establish quorum. Harry stated that a member could participate and vote by phone, but that a phone presence could not be used to establish a quorum.

1. Joy moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07. Lisa seconded.