VENETIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
SOCIAL/DINING COMMITTEE  
January 9, 2014

Meeting called to order at 10:16. Members in attendance Barbara Bracco, Linda Cautero, Ginny Keller. Also in attendance were Josh Grant, Tom Nurney, Jim Shea and new committee member Tom Uzzo.

Minutes of November 13, 2013 meeting were approved as corrected. Reviewed draft minutes of December 13, 2013 meeting. They were approved as corrected. Linda and Josh went over committee member duties and responsibilities with new member Tom Uzzo. Jim Shea reviewed the Sunshine laws with him as well.

There was discussion of how to get the new CDD email up and running for the committee members. Each member individually will need to contact Molly to get it up and running.

Review of Monthly Events

New Years Eve Party. Comments regarding the event were mixed. There were comments that the music was too loud; there were positive and negative comments about the event. The meal, the band and decorations overall were successful. There were a number of comments made the starting time was too early. There was discussion about moving the starting time for next year to 7:30. Josh also mentioned receiving a letter complaining about the reservation policy for the New Years Eve party selling out too quickly. There was also discussion about using the back dining room. There was also concern about the number of last minute cancellations and how to handle them in the future. The cancellation policy of 72 hours did not work out well in that when we called people at the 72 hour mark, they had already made other plans and the River Club can’t fill the space. We will take a look at this issue in the summer for the coming year for an alternative.

Breakfast with Santa went very well. Comments that Santa was very good and the food was excellent.

Cheeseburger in Paradise was very successful. Only complaint was that it ended at 9:30 rather than 10 p.m. Tom Nurney took responsibility for that. He said it would not happen again.

Ladies Luncheon (Toys for Tots). The event went well with no issues.

New Events

Josh explained he was looking at a big ticket event in April and asked for ideas for a theme.

Review of March events: March 15 St Patrick Dance; April 19 Spring Carnival; April 26 Cheeseburger in Paradise, March 29 published as Pizza Pub Dance.

There was discussion of a duo that plays at Pelican Alley. It was suggested we should get them to play for us. Other themes suggested: Josh suggested wedding crashers’ party, also a trivia night. It was mentioned we used to do a night like that during the week. Also, we should consider a karaoke night, a dinner theater night, or murder/mystery night. A member asked if it was necessary to have a theme for each night. Josh said the theme makes it much easier to market.

A committee member also suggested raising the price of the Cheeseburger evening from $15 to $18 for the evening.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding pricing of the upcoming “Dancing under the Star”s evening which is $50 per person. The earlier mixer we had was $18 per person. It was explained that the “Dancing Under the Stars” event includes an 8 piece band and a more expensive venue. New member
Venetian Community Development Committee
Social/Dining Committee
January 9, 2014

Tom Uzzo asked how we welcome new residents. We have monthly welcome meetings at the River Club as well as mixers.

Linda Cautero mentioned people are complaining about the increase in prices in our events and the value they are receiving at these events from $22 per person to $45. A question was raised as to whether the prices were raised to keep attendance down. Of course, the answer was no. Josh said that overall costs are up to run the entire club. Also we are doing fewer outside events, like weddings and outside meetings, and more resident/member events. Linda asked that we address the price increases again in the future. The concern is how high it will go. Josh said we are trying to balance events between the high end and the lower expense events. The costs are all about what value you get. The higher quality event...the higher the cost. We’re trying to provide all types of events to give the members as many choices as possible. Josh mentioned when WCI owned the club, they absorbed some of the loss. Jim Shea said they, on the CDD, are trying to address these same issues as they are looking at landscaping, security, and maintenance issues for the rest of the development as well. They are trying to keep costs down but maintain the quality of the community.

Management Update
There has been a smooth transition with the new security access system. The new reservation policy is having its growing pains as expected but is going well. The first iteration of the two night “birthday bash” went very well.

Meeting was adjourned.