



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294  
www.VeniceNC.org



## Board of Officers Regular Meeting Agenda

**6:30-9:30 PM February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Westminster Elementary School**  
**1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice, CA 90291**  
(enter from parking lot on Westminster Ave)

TRANSLATION Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 30 seconds per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

**CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL 6:45** 17 Board members present at Roll Call,  
Bruno Arrived at 7:40

Brian Averill	Alley Bean <b>absent</b>	Yolanda Gonzalez	Bruno Hernandez <b>absent at RC (arrived 7:40)</b>
Jim Robb	Lisa Redmond	Deborah Keaton	Jason Sugars
Helen Fallon	Robert Thibodeau	Eric Donaldson	Christopher Lee
Tima Bell	Erica Moore	Amara Hordt	
Michael Jensen	Clark Brown	CJ Cole	
Nico Ruderman <b>absent</b>	Steve Bradbury	Soledad Ursua <b>absent</b>	

### 2. RECOGNITION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JEFFERY SOLOMON

### 3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting65b458e2200e4.pdf>

[meeting65b45cf029d58.pdf](#) (venicenc.org)

CJ Cole 1<sup>st</sup>, Jason Sugars 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion carries 15-0-2-4

### 4. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR RECUSALS



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## 5. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## 6. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORT: RULES & SELECTIONS

## 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

## 9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMIT TO 20MIN/1MIN PER SPEAKER

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed one (1) minute unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the meeting.

## 11. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

### **ITEMS 11C & D WERE REQUESTED TO BE HEARD ON THE AGENDA BY MICHEL JENSEN**

**A. MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves the January 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). See supporting documents. (Committee vote 2-0-0)

**B. MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves the proposed budget adjustments (see supporting documents).

### **C. PUBLIC ART SCULPTURAL COLUMN REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0) MOVED TO END OF AGENDA**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests the City of Los Angeles immediately assess the repairs needed to eliminate the current unsafe conditions, prevent continued damage, and make all necessary repairs to the Public Art sculptural column titled "Dreams Come True" by William Attaway installed at Windward Plaza with letters sent to CD11 RAP and DCA.

### **D. PUBLIC ART TILES REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0) MOVED TO END OF AGENDA**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests that the City of Los Angeles immediately assess and inform the VNC when restoration, repairs, and maintenance will be undertaken to protect and preserve the Public Art tiles installed on 3 OFW bathrooms: Brooks, Horizon, and 17th Street, with letters sent to CD11 RAP and DCA.

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All agenda items on the Consent Calendar will pass when the Consent Calendar is approved. No discussion or Public Comment is allowed on any item. Items may be removed by any board member or stakeholder. Removed items will be treated as regular agenda items with discussion and public comment.

## OLD BUSINESS

NOTE: Postponed from Jan 2024 agenda and requested to be sent back to committee

**Motion to send it back to committee – Steve B 1<sup>st</sup>, Jason S 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Carries (13-4-1-3)**

### LUPC REVIEW PROCESS (3-0-0)

The purpose of the proposed changes is three-fold: 1) to clarify the standard of review for proposed developments within Venice, 2) to clarify steps LUPC should follow in the project review process, and 3) to establish timelines for the speedy review and processing of projects.

**Motion: The Board of Officers will strike the existing Standing Rule Section 3 LUPC Committee (pages 3-4), and hereby adds the following replacement to its Standing Rules:**

#### I. LUPC Agendas

The Agenda shall be prepared by the Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) Chair or other LUPC member assigned by the committee and shall include an agenda item to decide the disposition of all new projects in the bi-weekly Certified Neighborhood Council (CNC) City Planning Early Notification Reports since the last LUPC meeting.

#### II. Review of Projects

**Initiating Review:** The LUPC is responsible for reviewing applications for new projects listed in the CNC City Planning Early Notification Reports since the last LUPC meeting.

LUPC will determine if any projects need additional review and a public LUPC hearing by considering the project’s conformance with the VCP (Venice Community Plan), which includes all of Venice, and the LCP (Venice Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan), which includes only the Coastal Zone of Venice. If there is not a consensus of the group on whether to waive the review of a given project or not, further review of the project will be put to a vote of the committee.

**Projects Needing No Further Review:** Those projects for which additional review is waived will appear on the next VNC Board Agenda under the Agenda Item title “Projects for which VNC Recommendation is Waived, Without Prejudice.” The Board can vote to approve the list or approve a modified list and send any one of the projects listed back to LUPC for review and a public hearing.

**Projects Needing Further Review:** Those projects selected for further review and hearing will be assigned by the Chair during the public meeting to a LUPC member who will work with the applicant and the neighbors to prepare a written LUPC Staff Report. If there is opposition to the assignment of the LUPC member to a given project, the assignment will be put to a vote of the committee. Within one month’s time, or as soon as practicable, each project assigned shall be reviewed at a LUPC meeting at which a written Staff Report is presented that includes the recommendation, project description, pros and cons, a summary of community input, and any findings.

Projects for which a hearing is being held must contain the following minimum project information on the LUPC and VNC agendas: Address:



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All Case Numbers: LUPC member assigned: Applicant/Applicant’s Representative: Email for City Planner assigned: Detailed Project Description: Link to City Planning website where application and plans are posted: Link to LUPC Staff Report

**VNC Board Action:** Those projects that have been heard at a LUPC meeting will appear on the next VNC Board agenda under the Agenda Item title “Projects for which LUPC Recommends Board Action.” The Board can vote to accept the recommended action, reject the recommended action, or return it to LUPC for further review.

The results of the VNC Board LUPC agenda items shall be sent by the VNC Board Secretary within 72 hours of the meeting to the current City Planning Supervisor for Venice projects and the City Planner(s) assigned, with copies to the LUPC Chair and the VNC President.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 12. PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Motion to send back to committee Lisa R 1st, Helen F 2nd Motion Carries (9-8-1-3)**

#### **A. RESOLUTION TO PRIORITIZE TOWING OF RVS AND CAMPERS NEAR RESIDENCES, SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE CENTERS, PARKS, POST OFFICES, LIBRARIES AND SENIOR CENTERS (4-0-1)**

Whereas, Venice is currently the unwanted host to over 100 RVs, campers and vans used as dwellings; and

Whereas, many of these vehicles have been parking in the same location, within several feet of residences, for months, in some instances for years; and

Whereas, the city of Los Angeles has unconscionably established a regulatory straitjacket for itself that unnecessarily limits its ability to enforce many existing parking regulations, including the Venice-specific “No Oversize Vehicles 2-6AM” ordinance (OVO), the 72-hour rule requiring all vehicles parked on city streets to move after this period, and the requirement to move on days of street sweeping, and

Whereas, this city policy straitjacket:

- i. Puts a priority on citing and towing vehicles that create traffic hazards, environmental or public health hazards (read: obviously leaking sewage to the street), obstruct city services, and/or are inoperable or unregistered.\*
- ii. While it established (though not by ordinance) a lengthy internal city process of engagement and attempts at voluntary compliance, which accepts and enables continued vehicle dwelling in the city of Los Angeles, while all the cities and county incorporated territory near Venice completely ban vehicles over 7 or 8 feet tall at night on city streets (without a city permit) and enforce all their parking ordinances.
- iii. And ignores the serious burden placed on residents by the policy, which allows for



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occupied vehicles to remain within feet of residents and significant spaces and facilities used by the public for years at a time, robbing residents and their guests of street parking, while also permitting ceaseless accumulation of trash, bikes and bike “chop shops,” and food waste, discharge of human sewage to gutters, the storm drain system and Venice beach waters, and frequent late-night noise, preventing residents’ “quiet enjoyment of their homes;” and

Whereas, these policies were requested and put in place by former city councilmember Mike Bonin in his capacity as chair of the city council’s Parking and Transportation Committee; and

Whereas, the voters of Council District 11, which includes Venice, elected Traci Park as councilmember specifically to reverse the misguided policies of Mr. Bonin, especially in the city’s approach to public safety, homeless encampments and resident quality-of-life; and,

Whereas, during the pandemic, the city enforced none of the parking regulations cited above, and saw a steep increase in the number of vehicles used as dwellings, which was not mirrored in nearby cities, and the city allowed its contracted ability to tow and store and dismantle oversize vehicles to atrophy and has proved incompetent at increasing these capabilities over the time since the pandemic emergency order was repealed;

## **MOTION**

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon councilmember Traci Park to immediately introduce a Motion to establish, at least in CD 11, that the city prioritize citing and towing of all vehicles violating any of the three regulations above – OVO, 72 hour rule, street sweeping – parked on city streets within 75 feet of a residentially-occupied structure, a school, a child care center, park, library, post office, or senior center, regardless of whether they are used as dwellings or not.

### **B. CROSSWALKS/SIGNAGE ON SPEEDWAY (4-0-0) ~~Removed from agenda – no minutes posted~~**

Whereas there is increased traffic on Speedway between Marine Ave and 30th Place due to traffic slowing on Pacific and apps such as Waze. Whereas facilities like the Safran Center Senior Housing, Phoenix House, many tourist destinations and other sensitive uses are located adjacent to Speedway. Whereas there is currently a lack of crosswalks, stop signs, and speed limit signage, creating a confusing and dangerous situation for drivers, pedestrians, both locals and tourists, therefore;

MOTION: the VNC shall write a letter to CD11, LA DOT, and BOE requesting additional crosswalks and signage to reduce speeds and increase public safety on Speedway

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## 13. RULES AND SELECTIONS

Proposed amendments to Articles VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII, IV of the 7/1/22 Bylaws (see supporting documents) **Jason S 1st, Eric M 2nd - All items**

**NOTE: 2/3 Board majority vote (14 votes) required to pass**

- a. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws. **Motion Failed (12-2-4-3)**
- b. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws. **Motion Carries (15-1-2-3)**
- c. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws. **Motion Failed (10-5-3-3)**
- d. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE IX: FINANCES, ARTICLE XI: GRIEVANCE PROCESS and ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws. **Motion Carries (17-0-1-3)**
- e. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS and ARTICLE XIV: COMPLIANCE of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws. **Motion Carries (15-1-2-3)**

## 14. LUPC

### **A. CEQA APPLICATION TO HISTORIC RESOURCES (8-1-0) **TIMA B 1ST , JIM R 2ND MOTION CARRIES (12-3-3-3)****

CEQA requires analysis of impacts to historical resources and defines historical resources as those listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), those designated locally, and those that the City elects to treat as historical resources based on substantial evidence that they meet federal, state, or local listing criteria. Historical resources may include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts. Regulating historical resources falls within the jurisdiction of several levels of government: the framework for the

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identification of historical resources is established at the federal level, while the documentation and protection of such resources are often undertaken by state and local governments.

## **MOTION**

Request 60-day extension on proposal to allow for adequate study and provide more information on standards being proposed and potential impacts.

## **B. CEQA THRESHOLDS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND VIBRATION (LUPC 7-0-0)**

**Chris L 1<sup>st</sup>, Steve B 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Motion by Helen F to amend, Jason S 2 Vote Carries (12-3-3-3)**

**Challenge to refusal of President to not allow the CIS Lisa R 1st, Erica M 2nd - Challenged failed (7-10-1-3)**

Background Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts for construction noise and vibration. Pursuant to the authority of the Director of Planning (Director) under Los Angeles Charter Section 506 to make and enforce any necessary rules and regulations, the Director is considering the adoption of updated thresholds and methodology in the Department's preparation of CEQA clearances. Below is a summary of the proposed updates to the CEQA Thresholds related to Construction Noise and Vibration. An analysis of the City's current construction noise thresholds, as well as a review of best practices and thresholds used by other jurisdictions, found that the City's existing thresholds are overly conservative, especially in the context of impacts to public health. In particular, the use of a numeric threshold based on the increase in decibel levels over existing ambient conditions (e.g., a 5 dBA [A-weighted decibel] increase over ambient conditions) often results in a determination that construction noise impacts are significant, even for routine construction activities that are expected to occur in an urban environment. The increase in ambient level threshold is so low that it has the potential to show significant environmental impacts, even for activities such as a single day of construction or exterior remodeling of a single-family home in a residential area involving no unusual noise-producing equipment. As a result, a more appropriate construction noise threshold should be crafted in consideration that construction noise is temporary and periodic, and that while construction noise could result in human annoyance, it may not necessarily result in direct health impacts unless a certain absolute noise threshold is attained.

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Motion: The Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the City's current draft of the CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration changes be withdrawn and the process started again with a citizen advisory panel and a technical advisory panel.

Amended Motion: The Venice Neighborhood Council opposes the Planning Departments Proposed changes to the CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration and asks that the process be started again with citizen advisory panel and technical panel.

## **C. 567 RIALTO AVE. - ZA-2023-6876-CDP-ZAA-MEL-HCA (6-0-1) TIMA B 1ST JIM R 2ND, MOTION CARRIES (11-1-6-3)**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Demolish (e) 1150 sf SFD & build (n) 1940 sf SFD, renovate carport, storage, driveway and landscape (see supporting docs)

### **MOTION:**

The VNC recommends approval of the project as presented.

## **D. 1648 S. ABBOT KINNEY BLVD. - APCW-2024-275-SPE-SPP-CDP-WDI (5-1-1) REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Construction of a new commercial building in single jurisdiction coastal zone (see supporting docs)

### **MOTION:**

The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a City CDP and a Specific Plan Project Permit for the project at 1648 Abbot Kinney for the construction a new 1- story with mezzanine, 22 foot high (flat roof), 2,651 square foot ground floor retail use commercial building on a 30 x 90 vacant lot (currently contains a temporary non-fixed structure) totaling 2,700.2 square feet, with no auto parking spaces, providing 2 short-term and two long-term bicycle parking spaces, including a waiver of the one-foot dedication and a specific plan exception for no auto parking on site.

## **11C. PUBLIC ART SCULPTURAL COLUMN REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0)**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests the City of Los Angeles immediately assess the repairs needed to eliminate the current unsafe conditions, prevent continued damage, and make all necessary repairs to the Public Art sculptural column titled "Dreams Come True" by William Attaway installed at Windward Plaza with letters sent to CD11 RAP and DCA.

Amara H1st, Tima B 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Carries (16-0-2-3)

## **11D. PUBLIC ART TILES REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0)**

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Amara H 1st, Tima B 2nd Motion Carries (16-0-2-3)

## 15. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

## 16. ADJOURN ChrisL 1st Clark B 2nd

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

### Public Posting of Agendas -

The Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

### Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

### Public Access of Records -

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC Secretary, email at: [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org).

### Reconsideration and Grievance Process -

For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

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Roll Call	3	consent A & B	Old Bus motion to send to committe e	12a motion to send to committee	13a	13b	13c	13d	13e	14C	14A	Challenge to the Chair	14B amended	11c	11d
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Brian Averill	abstain	y	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain	abstain
Alley Bean	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	absent
Tima Bell	x	y	y	y	n	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y
Steve Bradbury	x	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Clark Brown	x	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y
CJ Cole	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y
Eric Donaldson	x	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y
Helen Fallon	x	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	abstain	y	y	y	y	y
Yolanda Gonzalez	x	y	y	y	n	abstain	y	n	y	y	y	abstain	n	n	y	y
Bruno Hernandez	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	n	n	y	y
Amara Hordt	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	abstain	y	y	y	abstain	abstain
Michael Jensen	x	<b>abstain</b>	y	y	n	<b>abstain</b>	<b>abstain</b>	n	y	abstain	y	n	n	abstain	y	y
Deborah Keaton	x	y	y	y	n	<b>abstain</b>	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Erica Moore	x	y	y	abstain	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Lisa Redmond	x	abstain	y	abstain	y	y	y	y	y	y	abstain	abstain	y	abstain	y	y
Jim Robb	x	y	abstain	y	y	n	y	y	y	y	abstain	y	n	y	y	y
Nico Ruderman	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	absent
Robert Thibodeau	x	y	y	y	n	n	n	<b>abstain</b>	y	n	y	n	n	n	y	y
Soledad Ursua	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>
Jason Sugars	x	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y	y
Christopher Lee	x	y	y	abstain	y	y	y	abstain	y	y	abstain	y	n	y	y	y
<b>TOTALS</b>																
	17 Present	15-0-2-4	<b>16-0-2-3</b>	13-1-4-3	9-8-1-3	12-2-4-3	15-1-2-3	10-5-3-3	17-0-1-3	15-1-2-3	11-1-6-3	13-2-3-3	7-10-1-3	12-3-3-3	16-0-2-3	16-0-2-3