

Proposed Bylaws Changes: submitted by Helen Fallon

ARTICLE I: NAME

Current: The name of the organization shall be Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC). ~~It shall be organized as a public Neighborhood Council, dedicated to the empowerment of the Venice Community.~~

Proposed: The name of the organization shall be the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC).

Rationale: underlying concept in 2nd sentence belongs in Article II Purpose -see changes to Article II

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Current: ~~A. Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life in Venice by building community and to secure support from the City of Los Angeles for the resources needed to achieve our goals.~~

Proposed: The purpose of the Council is to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs. Neighborhood councils shall include representatives of the many diverse interest in communities and shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood.

Rationale: Format more accurately reflects Empower standardized bylaws and the NC purpose as defined in the Charter section 900. A revised Subcategory A under Article II Purpose will further define the "Mission" of the Council.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Current: ~~B Purpose: the purpose of the VNC shall be:~~

- ~~1. To engage the broad spectrum of Stakeholders for collaboration and deliberation on matters affecting the community including events, issues and projects.~~
- ~~2. To work with other organizations in Venice and other Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils that want help in accomplishing their objectives or projects that the Venice Neighborhood Council desires to support.~~
- ~~3. To promote Stakeholder participation and advocacy in Los Angeles City government decision-making pr~~
- ~~4. ocesses and to promote greater awareness of available City resources.~~
- ~~5. To be an advocate for Venice to government.~~

Proposed: A. The **MISSION** of the Council is:

1. To provide an inclusive and open forum for public discussion of issues of interest to the Council and to advise the City on issues of interest to Council, including City governance, the needs of the Council, the delivery of City services to the Council area, and other matters of a City-wide nature;

2. To initiate, execute and support projects for the physical, social and cultural improvement of the Council area; and
3. To facilitate communication between the City and the Stakeholders on issues of concern to the community and/or the Stakeholders.

Rationale: Clarifies the actual Mission of the NC and Conforms to language in Standardized Empower Bylaws. Clearly and correctly defines the mission of the NC. Eliminates #4 in current bylaws that is confusing by referring to “government” when NCs are supposed to communicate to the City. Eliminates #2 which incorrectly states that the purpose of an NC is to help other organizations (not even defined in current bylaws) in Venice accomplish their goals. This objective is covered by NPGs and CIPs with criteria defined by the City Clerk’s office and should not be in the bylaws.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Current: ~~€~~-Policy: the policy of the ~~VNC shall be:~~

- ~~1-~~ To respect the Stakeholders as the ultimate authority and controlling force of the Venice Neighborhood Council.
- ~~2-~~ ~~To consistently and diligently outreach to the diverse and ever-changing Venice Community.~~
- ~~3-~~ ~~To respect the autonomy of all individuals, groups and organizations within the community.~~
- ~~4-~~ ~~To maintain the confidentiality of the Voting Member database as required by law.~~
- ~~5-~~ To remain non-partisan with respect to political party affiliation and inclusive in the Council’s operating including, but not limited to, the process of electing or selecting the Board of Officer and Committee members, as here in set forth.
- ~~6-~~ To utilize the Early Notification System (ENS) to inform the Council and Stakeholders and Community Interest Stakeholders of matters involving the City and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.
- ~~7-~~ To prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income, homeowner/renter status, or political affiliation.
- ~~8-~~ To have fair, open, and transparent procedures for the conduct for all Council business.

Proposed: B. The **POLICY** of the Council is:

1. To respect the Stakeholders as the ultimate authority and controlling force of the Venice Neighborhood Council.
2. To respect the diversity, dignity, and expression of views of all individuals, groups, and organizations within the community and/or involved in the Council;
3. To remain non-partisan with respect to political party affiliation and inclusive in the Council’s operating including, but not limited to, the process of electing or selecting the Board of Officer and Committee members, as here in set forth.
4. To utilize the Early Notification System (ENS) to inform the Council and Stakeholders and Community Interest Stakeholders of matters involving the City and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.

5. To encourage all Stakeholders to participate in activities of the Council.
6. To prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income, homeowner/renter status, or political affiliation.
7. To have fair, open, and transparent procedures for the conduct for all Council business.

Rationale: With the exception of #1, conforms to the Empower standardized bylaws and makes Policies clearer. Current Bylaws Policy #2 concept might be moved to Outreach responsibilities but is covered in proposed change #4. Current Bylaws Policy #4 concept belongs under Communications responsibilities (Article VI E.) and is already part of that Officer's responsibilities. Current Policy #3 is fully addressed in proposed change #2. (use of Autonomy is vague.) Policy Items will need to be renumbered.

ARTICLE II: BOUNDARIES: No pressing need for changes unless neighborhood internal boundaries are created. Elizabeth Wright has proposed changes that reorganize how this section is formatted and that would standardize it to the Empower standardized bylaws. Recommend: that this be addressed at a later date.

ARTICLE IV: STAKEHOLDER

~~Current: The VNC shall encourage all Stakeholders to participate in its activities, and shall not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, homeowner/renter status, income, citizenship status or political affiliation in any of its policies, recommendations or actions. See EmpowerLA.org, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for additional information.~~

Proposal: This is redundant- Eliminate

Rationale: This is already addressed in the proposed change to policies and was actually already added to bylaws in 2022 as policy #7. If proposed changes under policies are adopted this would be renumbered as policy #6. Participation by stakeholders included in above current language is also covered in policies-see proposed policy #5.

ARTICLE IV: STAKEHOLDER

~~Current: A. Any stakeholder who chooses to register may become a "Voting Member" Voter registration shall be conducted in accordance with Article X, as interpreted by the election rules of the City of Los Angeles. Proof of Stakeholder status shall be required for voting rights to be effected.~~

Proposed: Move and incorporate in to Article X: Elections as needed.

Rationale: Belongs under Bylaw Article X which addresses Elections.

~~Current: B. Stakeholder's Rights: Stakeholders shall have at a minimum the following rights:~~

- ~~1. To vote to elect the Board of Officers, as specified in Articles VI and X.~~
- ~~2. To comment on an action, policy or position.~~
- ~~3. To make use of initiative, recall and grievance procedures outlined in Articles V and X.~~
- ~~4. To participate in and provide feedback at all meetings of the VNC.~~
- ~~5. To participate on standing and ad hoc committees and assist with the various activities of the VNC, as specified in Article VII.~~

Proposed: Eliminate

Rationale: Most of the references to the various Articles are incorrect, creating confusion. Even where correct, this section is redundant. The specific referenced articles should be reviewed to make sure "stakeholder rights" are defined if at all necessary in the appropriate Article. The Brown Act already guarantees certain Stakeholder Rights. Article VI referring to Officers Duties has nothing to do with Stakeholders. Article X referring to Elections should be where voting issues regarding stakeholders are defined. Election procedures are already defined by the City Clerk's office. Stakeholders can no longer initiate recall. Grievance procedures and recall are now defined by Empower in Article XI and not in Article V or X as stated in the current bylaws.