



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627

Cannabis Committee

August 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Extra Space Storage Community Room
658 nice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

1. CALL TO ORDER. Meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm. Present were Cindy Chambers (CC), Roseann Boffa (RB), Justin Brezhnev (JB), and Michael Jensen (MJ).
2. AGENDA. The agenda was approved as presented (4-0-0); motion to approve by MJ; seconded by JB.
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 - MJ shared that the [Department of Cannabis Regulation](#) (DCR) will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 9th at 2 pm to discuss Phase I and Phase II progress. MJ will be attending this meeting.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT. There was no public comment.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. June 26, 2018, minutes were presented for discussion and a vote to approve without changes; motion to approve by MJ; seconded by RB. Minutes were approved without changes.
6. OLD BUSINESS.
 - A. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Provide an update on Outreach Committee meeting regarding a VNC Cannabis Townhall.

JB and CC presented a recap of the Outreach Committee meeting and the Cannabis Committee discussed holding the townhall in October 2018 or November 2018.

ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION:

- CC to follow up with Outreach Committee Chair, Hollie Stenson to review dates and discuss next steps and action required by the Cannabis Committee.
- Cannabis Committee members tasked with brainstorming townhall locations, structure, and speakers to invite. Follow up and next steps to slated for next Cannabis Committee meeting.
- Cannabis Committee members discussed including representatives from the following areas as speakers/presenters for the proposed townhall:
 - Scientist – safety and testing
 - Physician
 - Cannabis lawyer
 - Regulator
 - Cat Packer
 - Think and Grow Lab
- Suggested townhall locations discussed included:

- Oakwood Rec Center
- Animo
- Beyond Baroque
- Brief brainstorming session covering format and structure focused on townhall goals, purposes and intents.
 - Review application process
 - Discuss citizen/stakeholder/community member roles in the application process
 - Define terminology
 - Educate and inform both stakeholders and those interested in opening a cannabis-related business on the law, VNC process, resources available to both, and how to submit compliance-related questions and issues
 - Design and offer a survey soliciting feedback (part 1) and panel questions (part 2); JB agreed to lead and create the online survey
 - Online survey will confirm audience and the issues that interest them the most
 - Gather additional live questions at the beginning of the townhall
 - NOTE: 13,000 residents per dispensary (community plan area; 319 locations available across Los Angeles)
- Cannabis Committee identified townhall purpose and goals.
 - Increase access to community education, information, and resources
 - Laws
 - Application process
 - Medical vs. recreational
 - Police are not the regulatory authority for cannabis; provide information about filing a complaint
 - Obtain input from stakeholders
 - Limiting or Not Limiting Cannabis Businesses in Venice. Should there be a limit on the number of businesses in Venice? If yes, how do you propose doing that?
 - Onsite Consumption. Yes or no; and if yes, what would that look like?
 - Enforcement Information and Concerns.

B. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Remaining open committee seat. Chair announced an open seat on the VNC Cannabis Committee and enlisted committee members in helping to get the word out.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Phase II (LAMC Section 104.08) application filing period opened August 1, 2018 and continues until September 13, 2018.

B. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Identify criteria and discuss the VNC Cannabis Committee's role in the annual licensing process.

The mission of the VNC Cannabis Committee is to:

- Support our community's stakeholders, organizations, and local businesses in the transition out of unregulated industry and into a new regulatory framework; and,
- Liaise with local government and public agencies to access resources and share community-based education and best practices.

The VNC Cannabis Committee discussed the committee's role reviewing applicants, making recommendations, and sharing information with LUPC (and how; the process) will most likely begin with Phase III.

Committee members offered and discussed suggestions on how to create a transparent process for applicants to easily access, understand, and comply. The goal was stressed repeatedly that the applicant process for Venice must be easy to access, follow, and limit redundancy or unnecessary steps.

- Conduct outreach to neighbors. Would this be the applicant's responsibility, or would the Cannabis Committee host a community forum meeting to speak on the application? If the Cannabis Committee hosts such a meeting, the applicant attends and community is invited to discuss the application. Residences within 500 feet would receive notification about pending application.
- ACTION ITEM: CC to connect with LUPC Chair and Parliamentarian to gather additional input and information. Bring this information to next Cannabis Committee meeting and reserve time to discuss and lay out proposed draft structure.

- C. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Propose that the Los Angeles City Council expand its current definition of Disproportionately Impacted Areas to include Venice.

MJ presented background on the definition and other communities—such as the Valley—challenging the definition and consultants' findings.

The Cannabis Committee agreed that Venice narrowly missed falling under the heading of Disproportionately Impacted Areas and want to request the City to reconsider their current position.

ACTION ITEMS:

- MJ will draft a motion to be considered and possibly amended at the next Cannabis Committee meeting. If the motion is passed at the next Cannabis Committee meeting, it will be submitted to the VNC Board for consideration and possible approval.
- MJ to send statistics to Cannabis Committee members.
- MJ to create one sheet containing statistics, definitions, and talking points to share with Venice stakeholders (via Venice Cannabis Committee page), VNC Board, and Councilmember's office if and when VNC Board approves draft Cannabis Committee motion requesting Los Angeles City Council to re-evaluate Venice's status.
- CC to post statistics and one sheet in next committee meeting agenda.

- D. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Discuss and propose possible action regarding dispensary saturation.

ACTION ITEM: Enable Venice stakeholders to easily access DCR map and view dispensaries and possible sites.

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS.

Cannabis Committee reviewed action items and assigned tasks.

- OWNER—CC: Follow-up with Hollie Stenson, Outreach Committee chair regarding townhall meeting and next steps.
- OWNER—Cannabis Committee members (All)
 - Conduct outreach to community regarding open Cannabis Committee seat
 - Brainstorm townhall structure, format, and speakers list
- OWNER—CC: Draft Cannabis townhall goals and purposes to review at next Cannabis Committee meeting
- OWNER—CC: Contact LUPC Chair and Parliamentarian to discuss new applicant process and structure
- OWNER—CC: Research Cannabis townhall locations and report back to committee at next meeting

- OWNER—MJ: Draft motion proposing that the Los Angeles City Council expand its current definition of Disproportionately Impacted Areas to include Venice.
 - OWNER—CC: Upload DCR map screenshot with hyperlink back to DCR on the VNC Cannabis Committee page
 - OWNER—JB: Draft survey for Cannabis townhall
9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:55 pm.