



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) Phone: 310-421-8627

## Cannabis Committee

September 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes  
Extra Space Storage Community Room  
658 nice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

1. CALL TO ORDER. Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm. Present were Cindy Chambers (CC), Roseann Boffa (RB), Michael Jensen (MJ), and Shep Stern (SS).
2. AGENDA. The agenda was approved as presented (4-0-0); motion to approve by SS; seconded by MJ.
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
  - Discussed updating VNC Cannabis Committee page and seeking volunteers to assist.
  - Reminder that one open seat remains on the VNC Cannabis Committee.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT. There was no public comment.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. August 7, 2018, minutes were presented for discussion and a vote to approve without changes; motion to approve by RB; seconded by SS. Minutes were approved unanimously without changes.
6. OLD BUSINESS.
  - A. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Provide an update on Outreach Committee meeting regarding a VNC Cannabis Town Hall.

### ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION:

- The Outreach Committee submitted the Cannabis Town Hall budget for consideration and approval at August's VNC Board meeting. The \$1,000 budget was approved by the VNC Board.
- Cannabis Town Hall date confirmed for Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- Suggested location options:
  - Oakwood Rec Center
  - Beyond Baroque
  - CC to forward these options to VNC Outreach Committee Chair
- Determined town hall structure, format, and presenters.
  - Agreed on panel format to include representation from the following:
    - Scientist – safety and testing
    - Local business owner
    - Cannabis lawyer
    - Department of Cannabis Regulation and City Attorney representatives
    - Neighborhood Council Advice Division

- Incubator – Think and Grow Lab
  - Possibly a physician
- Reviewed and approved recommended panelists – unanimous
- MJ will be moderator
- Venice Chamber of Commerce has offered to partner with the Cannabis Committee on this event.
  - Committee voted to reject offer; 0-0-4
- Amended and approved Cannabis Town Hall purpose and goals; 4-0-0.
  - Finalized, approved text Cannabis Town Hall objectives; motion to approve by MJ; seconded by RB. Approved unanimously.
    - *Cannabis Town Hall objectives:*
      - *Educate and inform stakeholders on existing commercial cannabis laws and regulations; and,*
      - *Gather stakeholder input on issues such as limitations, onsite consumption, and City enforcement.*
- Discussed proposed survey.
  - Committee member, Justin Brezhnev offered to create the survey was not in attendance.
  - With deadline approaching before next meeting, the committee decided to forego a survey.
- Discussed outreach and drafted follow-up items to send to the VNC Outreach Committee.
  - Press release
  - Flyer – to include copy and distribution
  - Social media
  - VNC website – front page
  - CD 11 – send to and ask them to post on their website
  - VNC Constant Contact list – sent to Evan
  - Venice 311

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

The Committee discussed the below information, revised 600 feet in step 2 to align with the 500 foot rule as outlined by the City, and agreed to continue vetting this process with Venice stakeholders and the Department of Cannabis Regulation before making a final determination.

The mission of the VNC Cannabis Committee is to:

- Support our community’s stakeholders, organizations, and local businesses in the transition out of an 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.

Through our demonstrated commitment to our mission, the Cannabis Committee will work closely with the VNC Board and other committees to inform and make recommendations regarding licensing applications for Venice. The Cannabis Committee must begin to define and propose a process by which both stakeholders and the VNC Board and its applicable committees can refer to and access.

The Cannabis Committee proposes either the following or amended cannabis applicant process:

- STEP 1: Contact VNC Cannabis Committee.

- Applicant reviews process and *cannabis staff report* requirements on VNC Cannabis Committee page located on VNC website.
  - A Cannabis Committee member is assigned to the applicant.
  - Assigned Cannabis Committee member follows up with applicant to review process, answer questions, and obtain date for community input meeting.
  - STEP 2: Hold community input meeting.
    - Applicant contacts residents and organizations/businesses within 500 feet of the proposed location to attend a community input meeting.
    - Applicant responsible for mailing.
    - Community input meeting information posted on Cannabis Committee web page.
    - Applicant responds to community input at meeting.
    - Assigned Cannabis Committee member attends community input meeting, gathers information and community feedback.
  - STEP 3: Complete Cannabis Committee staff report.
    - Report completed by assigned Cannabis Committee member and submitted to Cannabis Committee to place on the agenda and review at next meeting.
  - STEP 4: Review and vote on application.
    - Cannabis Committee reviews report and votes to approve, approve with conditions, or reject application.
  - STEP 5: Forward report and application to LUPC; or, applicant addresses issues and returns to Cannabis Committee seeking approval.
  - STEP 6: Complete LUPC process and application submitted to VNC Board for vote by full Board.
- 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.

POSSIBLE ACTION: Request the LA City Council Designate Venice as a “Disproportionately Impacted Area” in the Cannabis Social Equity Program

REVISED MOTION: WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles City Council created a Social Equity Program “intended to decrease disparities in life outcomes for marginalized communities and to address disproportionate impacts of Cannabis prohibition in adversely-impacted and lower income communities”; and

WHEREAS the City Council adopted the Social Equity Analysis Report, dated October 18, 2017, and its addendums as the findings for the Social Equity Program; and

WHEREAS the Social Equity Analysis Report excludes Venice from being designated a Disproportionately Impacted Area on page 16 of the Report;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to the City Council requesting that it designate Venice and its three Police Reporting Districts (1431, 1412, and 1411) as a “Disproportionately Impacted Area,” as defined by the LAMC.

Motion made by MJ; seconded by RB; approved 4-0-0.

Additional documents requested by VNC Parliamentarian to provide VNC Board with further background information. Those documents attached to these minutes to include in the record.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

9. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:00 pm.