



# Venice Neighborhood Council

LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 | [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

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## LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: May 2, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: VNC LUPC

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82028284606>

Or One tap mobile :

+16694449171,,82028284606# US

+16699006833,,82028284606# US (San Jose)

Webinar ID: 820 2828 4606

*Translation Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.*

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 8, 2023, ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND BY RESOLUTION OF THE VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, THIS VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY WITH A CALL-IN OPTION OR INTERNET-BASED SERVICE OPTION.

Every person wishing to address the Board must dial telephone number listed above, and enter the above Meeting Id number and then press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial \*9 or use the Raise Hand option, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. 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.

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time.

Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

## 2. ROLL CALL

<input type="checkbox"/> Corinne Baginski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Lorber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Mack
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andreas Ramani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Rudisill	<input type="checkbox"/> Gabriel Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Stanger (7:15)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Jensen (Chair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Steven Williams

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. Minutes from 4/4/2024

Draft Minutes:

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6610d9750ae8b.pdf>

Motion: Approve minutes from 4/4/2024 LUPC Regular Meeting

Maker / 2nd: Andreas / Robin

Vote: Yea: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 0 / Recuse: 0 / Ineligible: 0 / Absent: 4

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

LUPC members to declare any conflicts of interest or *ex-parte* communications relating to items on this meeting's agenda. For more information, please see Fair Political Practices Commission Overview of Conflicts of Interest, available at <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/content/dam/fppc/NS-Documents/TAD/Campaign%20Documents/Conflicts%20Guide%202022.pdf>.

Member	Conflict	Ex Parte	Details
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Corinne Baginsky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Todd Lorber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mark Mack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Andreas Ramani	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Robin Rudisill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gabriel Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Stanger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Steven Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Michael Jensen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## 5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA)

Public comment is limited to one (1) minute per speaker with a total comment time not to exceed ten (10) minutes, unless adjusted by the Chair. No comment on items appearing on the Agenda are permitted. No committee member announcements are permitted.

## 6. STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

### A. Staff Update on Assigned Cases

Address	Case No.	Description	Staff
726 Rose Ave.	CPC-2022-8746-DB-CDP-SPP-MEL-VHCA-PHP	Demo of the existing structure for the construction of a 4-story (46'-8" feet), 10-unit, mixed-use development located in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan zoned C2-1	CB/SW
10 E Washington Blvd	APCW-2022-792-SPE-CDP-CUB-ZV-SPP	Addition of a 623 SF uncovered outdoor dining area to existing restaurant located in the Venice coastal zone zoned C4-1	TL/AR <i>*on hold</i>
2478 Lincoln Blvd.	ZA-2023-8371-CUB	CUB to allow the sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption with a proposed specialty wine store with operating hours from 8:00am to 11:00pm, daily.	CB
19 E. Windward	ZA-2024-471-CDP-CUB-CUX-SPP	Music entertainment facility and restaurant in the Venice SP.	TL
2520 S. Lincoln	ZA-2023-7556-CUB	CUB to allow on-site sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages with a proposed 2,600 sf restaurant with 91 interior seats and 762 sf of patio area with 54 seats. Hours of operation 8am to 2am daily	GS
709 Brooks	DIR-2024-249-CDP-HCA	Demolition of 2 SFDs and construction of one 2-story SFD in the front and one 2-story SFD in the rear with 5 parking spaces, with previously small lot subdivision per Case #AA-2019-6453-PMLA-SL	AR <i>*on hold</i>
78 Market St.	ZA-2018-3595-CU-CUB-ZV-M1	Change operating hours from 8am - 1am to 9am - 2am.	RR
23 E. Windward	DIR-2000-3597-RV-PA4	Plan approval and condition compliance review. Request to remove or modify all prior conditions of (REV)(PA3)	TL

**B. Case Assignments**

Address	Case No.	Description	Staff
825 S Hampton	CPC-2024-2450-DB-CDP-SPPC-CUB-VHCA-MEL	Demo (e) com. blds. a new 4-story DB, mixed-use, 36,716SF building with 36 units (4VLI), 3,416SF retail/cafe, with 3 levels subterranean parking with 60 parking spaces in the Venice Specific Plan.	AR

**7. CASES**

**A. 621 E. California**

Case Number:	ZA-2022-2418
Project Description:	Wall hedge variance for existing 6'-6" tall fence and 8' tall hedge in front yard.
Motion:	<p><b>Recommends approval of the project as presented, including the variance for over-height fence. LUPC further recommends a refund of fees because this request did not require a public hearing, as per LAMC section 13B.2.1.</b></p> <p><b>Maker / 2nd: Richard / Mark</b></p> <p><b>Vote: Yea: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 1 / Recuse: 0 / Ineligible: 0 / Absent 3</b></p>
Planning Case:	<a href="https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjU2NTI20">https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjU2NTI20</a>

**B. 78 Market St. (case on hold, continued to next meeting)**

Case Number:	ZA-2018-3595-CU-CUB-ZA-M1
Project Description:	Modification of hours of operation
Motion:	
Planning Case:	<a href="https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjczODE50">https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjczODE50</a>

**8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POSSIBLE MOTIONS**

**A. Venice Boys PCN Request (Changes requested from AdCom)**

Hugo Moreno Background

Hugo Moreno was born and raised in Venice, He qualifies for the City of Los Angeles’s Social Equity Program, which is designed to give ownership opportunities to groups harmed by the War on Drugs. He is asking for support from the VNC for his petition to the city for a retail dispensary in Venice. Currently, the number of retail dispensaries (8) exceeds the numbers permitted in the community plan based on population (4). Therefore, new dispensaries must go through a Public Convenience or Necessity (PCN) process to obtain a permit. Hugo Moreno is seeking VNC support to attempt to complete this process.

Business Plan:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z-hFBvvS0bRVKAlnXmnzcNMQX7em4ERzxjNxGScj4-E/edit>

Prior Motion: Motion to support Hugo Moreno, a local Venice born and raised Social Equity Applicant to pursue a PCN Request for “Venice Boys” retail shop, which is owned 100% by Mr. Moreno, and for Council District 11 to move the City Council to Reopen the PCN registration process.

Amended Motion: The VNC supports social equity applicant Hugo Moreno in his effort to pursue a public convenience or necessity (“PCN”) Request for “Venice Boys” cannabis dispensary because it is owned 100% by Mr. Moreno and because Moreno was born and raised in Venice. VNC further requests that Council District 11 move the City Council to Reopen the PCN registration process. This letter will be transmitted to CD11, Mayor Bass, and Executive Director of Department of Cannabis Regulation (“DCR”).

Maker / 2nd: Mark / Robin

Vote: Yea: 2 / Nay: 1 / Abstain: 3 / Recuse: 0 / Ineligible: 0 / Absent 3

## **B. Motion to Preserve and to Create New Urban Green Space in Venice**

### Background:

It is known that cities and neighborhoods can fight climate change by preserving and creating urban tree cover that can mitigate greenhouse emissions, reduce the energy needed to cool homes and businesses, and create a more pleasant and healthier urban space. In addition the unsealed ground can absorb storm-water run off and create a healthy habitat for urban and migratory animals and insects. Since the last comprehensive Los Angeles General plan was written over 50 years ago, the urban canopy has been shrinking despite many programs by several city administrations promising Millions of Trees planted. Los Angeles has one of the lowest rates of urban tree cover among America's largest cities at 15.2%, despite its sunny climate and favorable conditions for plant growth. It is only surpassed by New York's 13.5%, according to MIT's "Green View Index".

Further data shows an unequal distribution of trees, with a disproportionate amount of tree cover concentrated in Los Angeles' richer neighborhoods, according to a drone survey by KCET. Hancock Park maintains a healthy 37% of urban forest cover while South LA barely survives on a minuscule 7%.

Los Angeles has a dismal record of maintaining the trees that were planted during various initiatives in the past. Almost half the trees planted will die because of lack of water and/or poor management. More trees are destroyed yearly by urban development and removals due to safety concerns. Tree experts suggest a 4-1 tree replacement proposal for sidewalks instead of the 2-1 currently practiced, which will be insufficient to address long-term environmental damage.

In addition, Venice faces unprecedented and unique environmental challenges, such as tsunami impacts and rising sea levels, as well as local, manmade problems like the reduction in private green space due to over-development, increased impermeable surfaces, and the over-charging of ground water due to the failure to maintain absorbent surfaces throughout the neighborhood. These are just a few of the challenges that are facing our city and Venice in particular. To overcome these challenges, Venice's Planning and Land use committees should support efforts to implement recommendations of Venice's established and future committees that deal with maintaining and improving urban tree cover, so as to be one step ahead of similar efforts made by the city of LA at large.

Given these facts and the City of Los Angeles' failings as a whole to implement a manageable Urban Forestry Plan, this motion proposes to assess and catalog the current urban tree canopy in Venice and to start a community effort to improve the tree canopy in Venice. Along with the goals and efforts of the already established Venice Arbor committee\*, the following measures should be implemented to ensure a better and more climate-ready urban environment for Venice's future:

**Motion:** The VNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles:

1. Survey and catalog current tree cover and health of green space in Venice. Using current internet maps and manual surveys to identify current tree cover and the lack of it.
2. Identify city-owned and other public land where urban forest can be introduced. For instance, many easements along Venice boulevard belonging to the city or Caltrans can be made accessible to the public, some of which already have tree cover and permeable surfaces. Many traffic islands and other left-over spaces could be unsealed and converted into green islands or connected with a continued tree-lined path.
3. Identify streets and alleys that would allow more tree planting in parkways or in medians. Coordinate with the recent Parking Study conducted in Venice to designate more streets as one-way or parking streets. Wide streets like Venice Way and other streets that used to be canals

could be designated as Tree-lined Streets leading shaded pathways to the beach and around the neighborhood.

4. Identify current parks and parking lots in which urban forest cover can be increased.

5. Create an Urban Forest Management Plan for Venice that betters that of the city of Los Angeles. Set quantified urban tree canopy targets, identify resources to meet those targets, and adopt best urban forestry practices being followed by other leadership cities.

**Maker / 2nd: Richard / Todd**

**Vote: Yea: 5 / Nay: 0 / Abstain: 1 / Recuse 0 / Ineligible: 0 / Absent 3**

## **9. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

### **ADA Access**

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 three (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**

Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
- [www.VeniceNC.com](http://www.VeniceNC.com)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS) at <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils>.

### **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 [www.ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://www.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, [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 Board meetings and our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.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 Board meetings and our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org).