



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



**Board of Officers  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda  
6:30-9:30PM 5/21/2024  
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.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL

6:43 Start 17 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES: [APR 16 BOARD MINUTES](#)

Motion to postpone approval due to lack of voting tally – 1<sup>st</sup> - Lisa, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Helen  
Motion Carried 9-3-4 No – Steve, Jim, Robert



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

Clark spoke with 4 board members on Item 11. Lisa spoke to Brian regarding item 7. Yolanda spoke to Sarah Wauters. Robert spoke with Michael re: Item 21

### 4. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

### 5. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

### 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Appointments (both require board approval)

A. Alley Bean - VNC Homelessness Liaison

1<sup>st</sup> – Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jason Motion Carried (15-2-0)

B. Christopher Lee - Rules Committee Co-Chair

Co-chair not allowed per bylaws so no vote

### 8. 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.

### 9. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

General Consent - Board Approved Items A, B, D, E, & F. Passed 17-0-0  
Nico pulling Item G. Moved to the end of the agenda.  
Robert pulling Item C. Moved to after consent calendar

(Items deemed to be routine, non-controversial. Any board member or stakeholder can ask a clarifying question instead of, or before, moving items to the end of the general agenda)

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- A. Budget and Finance (3-0-0) The Venice Neighborhood Board of Officers approves the April 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (see supporting document)
- B. Budget and Finance (3-0-0) The Venice Neighborhood Board of Officers approves budget adjustments to the 2023-2024 Administrative Packet (see supporting document)
- C. Budget and Finance (3-0-0) The Venice Neighborhood Board of Officers approves an expense of up to \$193.74 for purchase of a Zoom license from the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for the period 05/06/24 to 05/05/2025. (see supporting document)

## D. IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED AT VENICE PARKS

**MOTION:** The Neighborhood Council (VNC) requests a letter be sent to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the Councilwoman Traci Park's Office asking that RAP consider capital improvements at all Venice parks, including, but not limited to items listed on supporting documentation.

**DESCRIPTION:** WHEREAS, stakeholders of the Venice Neighborhood council have attended meetings, filed reports and made recommendations about improvements needed at all Venice Parks, including, but not limited to Linnie Canal Park, Centennial Park, Venice Beach Recreation Center (Windward), Venice Beach Playground (Ozone), Penmar Park, Penmar Golf Course, Triangle Park, Via Dolce Park, Westminster Dog Park & Clubhouse and Oakwood Park and, WHEREAS, the Schools & Parks Committee wishes to initiate informed, ongoing and evolving dialog between stakeholders and the appropriate City of Los Angeles offices and departments with an initial SUBMITTAL.

## E. VNC WEEKLY or BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER (3-0-0)

**MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves the Outreach Committee to research and present possible options for the production of a weekly newsletter.

**DESCRIPTION:** The VNC Outreach Committee would like to hire a City approved entity to produce a weekly or biweekly VNC newsletter which would be sent out to our VNC email list. Additional possibilities could be utilizing created sections to cross post on our social media platforms and other printed materials for Outreach Tablings. Creating multiple uses from one source will maintain consistency and facilitate a broader reach to Stakeholders.

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## F. OPPOSE METRO CONGESTION PRICING ON THE WESTSIDE WITHOUT ROBUST NORTH/SOUTH TRANSIT OPTIONS ALREADY IN PLACE (4-0-0)

**MOTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly opposes the implementation of Metro's Congestion Pricing pilot (aka the Metro Traffic Reductions Study (TRS) project) without first having robust transit options in place in the North/South direction through the Sepulveda Pass from the 101 to the 10 freeway. Robust transit options are defined as either 1) enhanced bus service through the Sepulveda Pass as previously suggested by the Southern California Association of Governments

([https://scaq.ca.gov/sites/main/files/fileattachments/mobilitygozone\\_report\\_final.pdf?1604269434](https://scaq.ca.gov/sites/main/files/fileattachments/mobilitygozone_report_final.pdf?1604269434)) and 2) the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project, which will provide either monorail or heavy rail subway service from the San Fernando Valley to LAX, with a station on the UCLA Campus and a direct seamless connection to the Purple Line on Wilshire Blvd.

**DESCRIPTION:** Los Angeles is currently trying to give people more options for robust public transit, but the fact remains that we haven't accomplished this goal yet. If congestion pricing is going to be piloted or permanently implemented anywhere in Los Angeles, then it should only be done if everyone has a real option to travel without a car. It's been suggested that, if Metro can reimagine its bus system, much like London did, this might be possible. Currently, without robust transit options in place along the 405 freeway and in the Sepulveda Pass, drivers do not have the option to switch to public transit. If a Metro congestion pricing pilot were implemented on the Westside along the 405 freeway or Santa Monica Mountain canyons' streets, most drivers would have no choice but to pay the tolls for their trips to work or school. It should also be noted that, even with the transit options available on the Westside in the East/West direction, it is questionable whether the currently available mass transit in that direction could accommodate increased demand if congestion pricing were implemented along the 10 freeway.

## G. Opposition to CF 15-0389-S2 (2-0-0)

**Pulled by Nico. Moved to end of agenda**

**MOTION:** for CIS and letter stating opposition to CF 15-0389-S2 allowing neighborhood associations and community councils the same privileges as Los Angeles City certified Neighborhood Councils.

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**DESCRIPTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council opposes CF 15-0389-S2 granting neighborhood associations the same privileges afforded by certified Los Angeles City Neighborhood Councils (NCs) pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.819. All certified NCs are required to comply with the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and the policies and rules of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Clerk's NC Funding Program and NC Election Divisions. NC Board members must take several trainings including Ethics, Anti Bias, and Community Gender Bias, as well as comply with a Code of Conduct. Neighborhood association members do not have to comply with any of the above. Further, NC meetings must comply with the Brown Act by giving notice of meeting times and locations, the timely filing of agendas and being open to the public. NCs are prohibited from activities such as raising outside funding, supporting or opposing candidates and ballot measures, and suing The City. Neighborhood association members are not required to take any type of training, they can restrict board membership in any way they choose, they do not need to give notice of meeting times and locations, allow the public to attend and address them, or let the public know what they are discussing and deciding. Where NCs are supposed to be open and not discuss or decide issues before them in any manner other than at a public meeting, neighborhood associations can meet and decide issues in ways that are opaque and secretive. Finally, many neighborhood associations are dues paying organizations and conduct private elections not open to the public. Therefore, the VNC opposes CF 15-0389-S2. Additionally, a letter will be sent to Council Member Traci Park, City Council President Paul Krekorian, Interim DONE General Manager Vanessa Serrano and City Attorney Hyde Feldstien Soto.

## H. DISASTER READINESS COORDINATION (Resiliency Committee, 3-0-0)

**MOTION:** That the President of the Venice Neighborhood Council by letter forward this request to Mayor Karen Bass and staff as well as Councilwoman Traci Park and staff with a copy to Carol Parks General Manager of the LA City Emergency Management Department. the Venice Neighborhood Council requests

that Mayor Karen Bass, and Councilwoman Traci Park in cooperation with the Emergency Management Department, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and all relevant elements of Emergency Operations Organization of the City of Los Angeles to proactively engage (1) the VNC (led by the Community Resiliency Committee), appropriate local organizations and other Neighborhood Councils as active partners with the LA City Emergency Organization to develop whole community, all hazards, area- specific emergency plans that are coordinated with city emergency plans, and consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) (2) dedicate additional staffing to EMD, LAFD and LAPD as well as other material resources to enhance the education, awareness, planning and preparedness of the whole Venice community, and,

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(3) utilize city resources including staff and facilities to establish joint training for, and exercising of, said plans on an ongoing basis, especially as it impacts those who are most vulnerable to all such potential disasters.

**DESCRIPTION:** WHEREAS Los Angeles has established Get ReadyLA, a city-wide initiative attempting to prepare individuals, families and businesses for natural and man-made disasters which include specific evacuation protocols, and, WHEREAS the Venice community is especially vulnerable to such disasters given its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, limited ingress and egress, tourist popularity, number of residents with limited functional abilities, population age and density all creating numerous evacuation challenges, and,

WHEREAS the city of Los Angeles, through current infrastructure construction projects and anticipated future plans has not sufficiently accounted for the impact of such projects and plans throughout the Venice community,

WHEREAS Los Angeles has not developed sufficient, coordinated community emergency plans to effectively engage the whole Venice community in becoming disaster resilient, and, despite continuing efforts by the Emergency Management Department and other city departments, has dedicated limited resources to sufficiently communicate city emergency plans

9C. Budget and Finance (3-0-0) The Venice Neighborhood Board of Officers approves an expense of up to \$193.74 for purchase of a Zoom license from the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for the period 05/06/24 to 05/05/2025. (see supporting document)

1<sup>st</sup>- Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – CJ Motion passed 16-0-1

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

### PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

#### 11. RESOLUTION FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CITATIONS TO PERSONS CAMPING IN PUBLIC PLACES IN VENICE EVEN IF THEY ARE IN VEHICLES PROVIDED HOUSING IS AVAILABLE TO THEM (3-0-0)

1<sup>st</sup> – Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Eric Motion Carried (9-4-4)

The explanations and rationales for the ordinance are in the Supporting Documents for this resolution filed herewith.



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**MOTION:** the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to pass and the Mayor to sign a Venice-specific ordinance, which provides:

- i. In instances when specific shelter has been offered to a person dwelling on public property in the Venice district of the city of Los Angeles, police officers may issue citations pursuant to LAMC Sec.11.00 against any person camping on public property even if within a vehicle
- ii. Regardless of shelter availability, officers may enforce violations in the following locations:
  1. Within 1000 feet of K-12 schools, child care centers, and adult day care centers.
  2. Within 1000 feet of a facility offering temporary shelter or affordable housing for individuals who had previously been homeless.
  3. In City parks and the Venice Beach Recreation Area, where a substantial public health and safety risk is determined, including within 1000 feet of a location or area which the Los Angeles Police Department has determined to have had a heightened level of crimes involving murder, assault, sex trafficking, bike or auto theft, or drug sales.
  4. When there is an immediate threat to public safety or a threat of fire or the person is wanted in connection to another crime.

Upon passage this Resolution shall be delivered to Mayor Karen Bass and City Councilmember Traci Park

## **12. RESOLUTION TO PRIORITIZE TOWING OF RVS AND CAMPERS NEAR RESIDENCES, SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE CENTERS, PARKS, POST OFFICES, LIBRARIES AND SENIOR CENTERS (3-1-0)**

1<sup>st</sup> – Nico, 2<sup>nd</sup> - CJ Motion Carried (11-1-5)

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**MOTION:** 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. Upon passage this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Council District 11 councilmember.

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:

- 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.
  - 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.
  - And ignores the serious burden placed on residents by the policy, which allows for 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
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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 oversized vehicles to atrophy and has proved incompetent at increasing these capabilities over the time since the pandemic emergency order was repealed.

## 13. BUDGET AND FINANCE

### A. NPG VERDANT VENICE (2-1-0)

1<sup>st</sup> – Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lisa Motion Carried (14-1-2)

**MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for \$4,502.90 submitted by the Venice Chamber Community Foundation on behalf of the Verdant Venice Group to implement a "Small Parkway Pilot Program" and replace eight trees at Oakwood Park. and any necessary budget adjustments. (see supporting documents) Budget and Finance 2/1/0 on 4/11/24

### B. NPG FRIENDS OF THE VENICE LIBRARY (3-0-0)

1<sup>st</sup> – Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Erica Motion Carried (16-0-1)

**MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for \$2,610.60 submitted by the Friends of the Venice Library to purchase children's tables and chairs for the designated children's area in the Venice Branch Library. (see supporting documents)

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## SCHOOLS AND PARKS

### 14. PLAYGROUND AT CENTENNIAL PARK (7-0-0)

1<sup>st</sup> - Eric, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Nico Motion Carried (14-1-2)

**MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers supports the concept of a playground as part of Centennial Park. The VNC Board of Officers wants to ensure this playground leaves room for additional vegetation, references to the railroad, and additional structures. ~~like the Flying Carousel.~~

Motion modified to remove “like the Flying Carousel.”

**14B.** Motion to send back to committee 1<sup>st</sup> – Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – This motion negated when original motion passed.

## LUPC

### 15.A 1648 S. ABBOT KINNEY BLVD - APCW-2024-275-SPE-SPP-CDP-WDI (5-1-1)

Motion postponed until next month

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

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## B. CIS FOR CITY COUNCIL FILE 23-0623 (7-0-1)

1<sup>st</sup> – Brian, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Motion Carried (13-2-2)

Background Information See CF 23-0623 for further information about Executive Directive 1 and processes related to the Affordable Housing Streamlining draft ordinance (preparation of ordinance approved by City Council in June 2023). See more information about the status of the proposed draft ordinance at Planning / Streamlining Ordinance.

**Motion to File CIS:** The Venice Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Neighborhood Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council file CF 23-0623 with the following amendment: the City cap development waivers at five (5), with no more than one (1) of which may be related to the environment, for Executive Directive 1 (ED1) and 100% Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance projects, and further requests that the ordinance require 15-foot front- and rear-yard setbacks for permeable surface and stormwater recapture; and (2) and exemption for the Coastal Zone, R-1 Zones, HPOZs, Historic Districts, substandard streets, and high fire zone

## NEW BUSINESS

### 16. VENICE COMMUNITY PLAN COMMITTEE SURVEY REPORT

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting664906ff2ff56.pdf>

### 17. LUPC

#### A. 621 E. CALIFORNIA (5-0-1)

1<sup>st</sup> - Michael 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jason Motion Carried (10-3-4)

**MOTION:** Wall hedge variance for existing 6'-6" tall fence and 8' tall hedge in front yard.

**DESCRIPTION:** 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.

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## 18. PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

### A. CONNECTIVITY OF ABBOT KINNEY BLVD TO CENTENNIAL PARK (4-0-0)

Motion postponed until next month. Committee minutes not posted.

**MOTION:** The Board of Officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the west crosswalk of Venice Boulevard at Abbot Kinney Blvd be connected to the island, and a access point be created in the fencing, such that pedestrians may access Centennial Park from Abbot Kinney Boulevard, as per DOT's "pedestrian island" recommendation.

**DESCRIPTION:** Rec & Parks has installed fencing around Centennial Park, preventing public access and viewing of this important Venice Park.

## 19. SCHOOLS AND PARKS

### A. ENFORCEMENT OF THE OFF-LEASH DOG ORDINANCE AT OAKWOOD PARK (6-0-1)

1<sup>st</sup> – Eric, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Motion Carried (13-1-1-1)

**MOTION:** that the Schools & Parks Committee recommends to the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) that a request be sent to the Department of Recreation and Parks, LAPD, Los Angeles Animal Services and the Councilwoman Traci Park's Office asking for consistent, genuine enforcement of the off-leash ordinance in Oakwood.

**DESCRIPTION:** Oakwood Park continues to be illegally used as an off-leash dog park and WHEREAS, residents and visitors to the park, most importantly seniors and children, feel extremely threatened by these dogs, many of them large-breed and WHEREAS, there have been multiple incidents of fighting (between both dogs and their owners) and WHEREAS, the dogs constantly dig holes and relieve themselves on the sports fields, jeopardizing the youth athletes using the fields.

### B. SECURITY AND ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT NEEDED AT PENMAR RECREATION CENTER (8-0-0)

Motion not heard



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**MOTION:** The Schools & Parks Committee recommends to the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) that a request be sent to the Department of Recreation and Parks, LAPD, Los Angeles Animal Services and the Councilwoman Traci Park's office, asking for consistent, genuine enforcement of city ordinances, specifically LAMC 63.44, related to camping, overnight sleeping, storing of personal possession, storing of bulky items, defecation, urination, overnight parking, off-leash dogs and all related ordinance of Penmar Recreation Center.

**DESCRIPTION:** Security and enforcement of public park rules and regulations and of city ordinances such as no camping, no overnight sleeping, no overnight parking in the parking lot, no storage of personal possessions and bulky items, no defecation/urination, no off leash dogs and all other related ordinances at Penmar Recreation Center (a designated drug free zone LAMC 63.46) is non-existent and, WHEREAS, The safety of children, senior citizens, stakeholders and visitors is compromised on a daily basis and, WHEREAS, Penmar Recreation Center continues to be occupied by unhoused living in cars and vans, that occupy the Penmar Park parking lot on Lake St. and surrounding streets of Penmar Ave. and Rose Ave. and, WHEREAS, the Park Rangers from the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks division have consistently dismissed and not acted on our requests for enforcement of ordinances in the park, like LAMC 63.44, prohibiting overnight camping in the park and storage of bulky items, and their own posted park rules and regulations, and, WHEREAS, Penmar Recreation Center continues to be illegally used as an off-leash dog park at all hours and the dogs dig holes and relieve themselves in the sports fields, jeopardizing our youth and, WHEREAS, residents and visitors to the park, most importantly seniors and children, feel threatened by the existence of homeless encampments in the park and off leash dogs in the park, many of them large breed and, WHEREAS, there have been multiple incidents of dog fighting in the park, (between both dogs and their owners) and, WHEREAS, there have been multiple incidents of the unhoused occupying the park for long periods of time, refusing to leave without police intervention, some which have large dogs tied to the city fence within the park.

## C. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CENTENNIAL PARK FOOD FOREST (6-0-1)

1<sup>st</sup> – Eric, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Motion Carried (13-3-1)

**MOTION:** that the Schools & Parks Committee recommend to the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC), a letter of support for Home Grown Gardens' Regenerative Food Forest and Pollinator Habitat, be sent to the Department of Recreation and Parks and Councilwoman Traci Park's District 11 Office with the

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understanding that Home Grown Gardens will work in conjunction with other approved projects.

**DESCRIPTION:** Centennial Park has been recently cleared and cleaned and, WHEREAS, Home Grown Gardens (homegrowinggardensla.com) has submitted an application to the Department of Recreation and Parks proposing to install a regenerative food forest and pollinator habitat, along with a community composting hub at Centennial Park, which is adjacent to the Venice Branch Library and, WHEREAS, their goal is to provide programming to educate the public about the many benefits of gardening and growing food, including but not limited to, mental health, physical health, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, food security and enhanced biodiversity and, WHEREAS, this concept is already fully funded and has dozens of volunteers lined up to assist with the set up, maintenance and classes.

## 20. BUDGET AND FINANCE

1<sup>st</sup> – Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Erica Motion Carried (16-0-1)

**A. MOTION: (3-0-0)** The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for \$3,407.40 submitted by the Venice Oceanarium to purchase marine specimens, a branded canopy and branded tablecloths. (see supporting documents)

## 21. RULES AND SELECTIONS

### A. LUPC REVIEW PROCESS STANDING RULE (2-0-0)

Motion not heard

**MOTION:** purpose of the proposed changes are: 1) to clarify the standard of review for proposed developments within Venice, 2) to clarify steps LUPC should follow in the project review process, 3) to establish timelines for the speedy review and processing of projects, and 4) establish a consistent level of transparency for all.

**DESCRIPTION:** VNC 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: Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC): 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.

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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 Committee's public meeting to a specific 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 as required by the VNC Bylaws. Projects for which a hearing is being held must contain the following minimum project information on the LUPC and VNC agendas: Address: 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, or assigned designee, within 10 business days of the meeting to the current City Planning Supervisor for Venice projects and the City Planner(s) assigned, with copies to the VNC Board.

## 22. Opposition to CF 15-0389-S2 (2-0-0)

Moved from Consent  
Motion not heard

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**MOTION:** for CIS and letter stating opposition to CF 15-0389-S2 allowing neighborhood associations and community councils the same privileges as Los Angeles City certified Neighborhood Councils.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council opposes CF 15-0389-S2 granting neighborhood associations the same privileges afforded by certified Los Angeles City Neighborhood Councils (NCs) pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.819. All certified NCs are required to comply with the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and the policies and rules of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the City Clerk's NC Funding Program and NC Election Divisions. NC Board members must take several trainings including Ethics, Anti Bias, and Community Gender Bias, as well as comply with a Code of Conduct. Neighborhood association members do not have to comply with any of the above. Further, NC meetings must comply with the Brown Act by giving notice of meeting times and locations, the timely filing of agendas and being open to the public. NCs are prohibited from activities such as raising outside funding, supporting or opposing candidates and ballot measures, and suing The City. Neighborhood association members are not required to take any type of training, they can restrict board membership in any way they choose, they do not need to give notice of meeting times and locations, allow the public to attend and address them, or let the public know what they are discussing and deciding. Where NCs are supposed to be open and not discuss or decide issues before them in any manner other than at a public meeting, neighborhood associations can meet and decide issues in ways that are opaque and secretive. Finally, many neighborhood associations are dues paying organizations and conduct private elections not open to the public. Therefore, the VNC opposes CF 15-0389-S2. Additionally, a letter will be sent to Council Member Traci Park, City Council President Paul Krekorian, Interim DONE General Manager Vanessa Serrano and City Attorney Hyde Feldstien Soto.

## 23. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

## 24. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jason. Meeting adjourned at 10:02p

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)

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# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

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## **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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	<b>Attend</b>	<b>7A</b>	<b>9C</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13A</b>	<b>13B</b>	<b>14</b>
Brian Averill	y	y	y	a	a	a	a	a
Alley Bean	y	y	y	n	a	y	y	y
Tima Bell	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Steve Bradbury	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Clark Brown	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
CJ Cole	y	y	y	y	y	n	y	y
Eric Donaldson	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Helen Fallon	y	y	y	a	y	y	y	n
Yolanda Gonzalez	y	n	y	y	y	a	y	y
Bruno Hernandez	y	y	y	a	y	y	y	y
Amara Hordt	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Michael Jensen	6:49p	y	y	y	y	y	y	y
Deborah Keaton	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Christopher Lee	y	y	y	a	y	y	y	y
Erica Moore	y	y	y	n	a	y	y	y
Lisa Redmond	y	y	y	n	n	y	y	a
Jim Robb	y	y	y	y	a	y	y	y
Nico Ruderman	y	y	a	y	y	y	y	y
Robert Thibodeau	y	n	y	y	y	y	y	y
Soledad Ursua	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Jason Sugars	y	y	y	n	a	y	y	y
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15-2-0</b>	<b>16-0-1</b>	<b>9-4-4</b>	<b>11-1-5</b>	<b>14-1-2</b>	<b>16-0-1</b>	<b>14-1-2</b>



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	<b>15B</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19A</b>	<b>19C</b>	<b>20</b>
Brian Averill	a	a	a	a	a
Alley Bean	y	y	y	y	y
Tima Bell	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Steve Bradbury	y	y	y	y	y
Clark Brown	a	y	y	y	y
CJ Cole	y	a	y	n	y
Eric Donaldson	y	y	y	y	y
Helen Fallon	y	n	No vote	n	y
Yolanda Gonzalez	n	y	y	n	y
Bruno Hernandez	y	y	y	y	y
Amara Hordt	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Michael Jensen	n	y	y	y	y
Deborah Keaton	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Christopher Lee	y	a	y	y	y
Erica Moore	y	y	y	y	y
Lisa Redmond	y	n	y	y	y
Jim Robb	y	n	y	y	y
Nico Ruderman	a	y	y	y	y
Robert Thibodeau	y	y	n	y	y
Soledad Ursua	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Jason Sugars	y	a	y	y	y
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13-2-2</b>	<b>10-3-4</b>	<b>13-1-1-1</b>	<b>13-3-1</b>	<b>16-0-1</b>