



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



## Board of Officers Regular Meeting Agenda

**6:30-9:30 PM April 16th, 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 **6:36 Start 18 MEMBERS PRESENT CJ & Soledad left the meeting at approximately 9:30PM**

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

### 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6601d16f24b2e.pdf>

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

**CJ will recuse on 522 Venice, Clark emailed and discussed board members regarding 16A, Chris discussed 13A with Board Members, Erica talked to various Board Members, Steve discussed 13A with various board members, Eric 13A with various board members, Tima talked to 3 board members regarding 13A and 522, Michael spoke to various board members on 13A, 16B & C.**

### 4. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

### 5. GOVERNMENT REPORTS



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6. **LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY**
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**





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## 9. 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.

## 10. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

General Consent - Eric 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> – Board Approved A, C & E. Michael Jensen requests to move Items B & D, they will be moved to the end of the agenda.

GENERAL 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.

- A. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the March 2024 Month Expenditure Report (MER) (see supporting documents)
- B. 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)
- C. The Board of Officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a Butterfly and Pollinator Garden in Centennial Park as described in the attached proposal, to accompany other features in the park.
- D. 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,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that Mayor

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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





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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, (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.

THEREFORE be it further resolved: 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.

## **E. MAINTENANCE REQUESTS AT VENICE PARKS**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests that RAP address all maintenance issues at all Venice parks, including, but not limited to all items listed on the supporting documentation.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. DEVELOPMENT SUBSIDIES FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING – LUPC (8-0-1)**

Robert 1<sup>st</sup> Michael 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Carried (13-3-2-3)

Background This motion seeks support for government subsidies to be granted equally to smaller community builders who develop housing in our community. Government subsidized and grant-driven projects historically and currently have proven to be incapable of providing housing. Large corporate subsidized and for-profit builders of 50 or more unit building types account for 13.1% of the housing in Venice and 13.6% in all of the City of Los Angeles. In contrast, housing produced by “mom & pop” community builders of two to 24 unit building types account for 46.6% of housing units in Venice and 36.9% of units within the City of Los Angeles. Large government subsidized and grant driven projects historically and currently have provided housing that is massively over and above any reasonable character and scale that any residential community should be required to accommodate. Smaller apartment buildings are more in line with the community’s characteristics and provide more opportunity to engage with neighbors and the community. Large projects in Venice have frequently ignored VNC concerns, instead relying on political connections to obtain approvals. Finally, large government subsidized and grant driven projects cost vastly more per square than smaller projects.

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MOTION: WHEREAS, the VNC supports small businesses made up of smaller community builders who create low income housing in multi-unit apartment buildings that conform to the VCZSP; WHEREAS, the VNC supports smaller scale apartment buildings dispersed throughout the community; NOW, THEREFORE, the VNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles provide the same opportunities for subsidies, grants, and subsidized loans to local, community builders providing low income units that it provides to larger, “non-profit” corporate developers. This motion shall be sent to Council Member Traci Park and CD11 Planning Deputy Jeff Khau.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

## 13. RULES AND SELECTIONS

Motion was made to move Item 13 to the end of the agenda – Nico 1<sup>st</sup>, Robert 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Failed (2-16-0-3)

Amendment proposed by Steve 1<sup>st</sup> cJ 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5 districts, 8 at large – vote for up to 3, CIS Motion to amend carried (12-6-0-3) NOTE: Amendment to motion does not require 2/3 board majority

13A Amended - Helen 1<sup>st</sup>, Jason 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended motion failed (12-6-0-3) NOTE: 2/3 majority vote required

13B required approval of 13A and was not voted on

- A. (4-0-0) **Motion:** The Venice Board Of Officers amends the previously adopted (7/01/22) VNC Bylaws to include 6 internal boundaries or zones as described in the attached map, and amends the composition of the Board to change 10 of the 13 at-large community officer positions to zone representatives as described in the supporting documents. The VNC Board further amends who can run and vote for the Community Interest Officer position to include All Stakeholders and approves all necessary changes to the bylaws directly affected by this motion. (see supporting documents)
  - B. (4-0-0) **Motion:** To ensure that the VNC Bylaws conform to the Plan for Neighborhood Councils, the Venice Board of Officers amends Attachment B of the previously adopted (7/01/2022) Bylaws to state that ALL Stakeholders may run and vote for the Community Interest Officer position and that Article X: Elections will reflect this change. (see supporting documents)
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## **ITEM 17A WAS MOVED TO THIS SPOT IN THE AGENDA:**

Michael 1<sup>st</sup>, Robert 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Failed (5-9-2-5)

Motion to Adjourn – Lisa 1<sup>st</sup>, Brian 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting Adjourned 10:30PM

All remaining Agenda items will be moved to Old Business in the next agenda.

## **14. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### **A. NPG VERDANT VENICE**

**MOTION:** (2-1-0) 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

## **15. SCHOOLS AND PARKS**

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

**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.

## 16. PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### A. (3-0-0) 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

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

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to pass and the Mayor to sign a Venice-specific ordinance, which provides:

1. 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

2. Regardless of shelter availability, officers may enforce violations in the following locations:

(a) Within 1000 feet of K-12 schools, child care centers, and adult day care centers.

(b) Within 1000 feet of a facility offering temporary shelter or affordable housing for individuals who had previously been homeless.

(c) 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.

(d) 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

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

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

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

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dwelling, 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;

Now, Therefore 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.

## 17. LUPC

### A. 522 VENICE BLVD (4-2-1)

#### DESCRIPTION

Motion to approve as presented density bonus conditional use permit, CDP with Mello, and major project permit Venice Coastal SPP compliance for a new 25 unit apartment (5 VLI units).

#### MOTION:

Demolition of residential triplex currently used as “podshare” co-living to be replaced by 25-unit apartment building with 5 Very Low Income units. The Project seeks a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) pursuant to LAMC 12.24(U)(26) to permit a density bonus greater than 35% with the following incentives and waivers pursuant to LAMC 12.22 A 25 and CA Government Code Section 65915: Incentives (12.22 A 25): On-Menu • Permit a 6’-11” increase in varied roofline height to allow up to 36’-11” in lieu of the maximum 30 feet allowed in the RD1.5-1 zone pursuant to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan • Permit a 40% reduction in required front yard setback along Mildred Avenue frontage to allow a 9’ front yard setback in lieu of the required 15’ front yard setback pursuant to LAMC 12.09.1.B.1 • Permit a 37% reduction of total required common open space to allow the provision of 784 square feet of total common open space in lieu of the 1,250 square feet required for total common open space pursuant to LAMC 12.21.G.2.a.1.iv • Permit a 21% reduction in required westerly side yard setback along Ocean Avenue frontage to allow a 4’-9” side yard setback in lieu of the required 6’ side yard setback pursuant to LAMC 12.09.1.B.1 • Permit the removal of the step-back provisions for the portions of the structure greater than 25 feet as otherwise required by Section 10G.3.a of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. • Permit the provision of 5 automobile parking spaces in lieu of the 57 automobiles required pursuant to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan Section 13.D and LAMC 12.21.A.4 • Permit the provision of 3



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standard parking stalls and 2 compact parking stalls in lieu of the 1 standard parking space per dwelling unit minimum required pursuant to LAMC 12.21.A.5.(1)c.

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

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

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

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: In regard to CF 23-0623, the Venice Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Neighborhood Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that 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 (1) 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

## **18. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

## **19. ADJOURN**

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



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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)

## **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 \(ENS\)](#)

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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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VOTES ARE TALLIED  
(yea-nay-abstain-  
absent)

Roll Call

minutes

Consent  
Calendar

11A

Motion to  
move  
Item 13 to  
the end of  
the  
agenda

Motion  
to  
amend  
13A

Amende  
d 13A

17A

Brian Averill		y	y	abstain	n	y	y	abstain
Alley Bean		y	y	y	n	y	y	n
Tima Bell		y	y	y	n	y	y	y
Steve Bradbury		y	y	y	n	y	y	n
Clark Brown		y	y	y	n	n	y	y
CJ Cole		abstain	y	n	n	y	y	absent
Eric Donaldson		y	y	y	n	n	n	n
Helen Fallon		no	y	n	n	n	n	n
Yolanda Gonzalez	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Bruno Hernandez	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>
Amara Hordt	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>	<b>absent</b>
Michael Jensen		y	y	y	n	n	n	y
Deborah Keaton		y	y	y	n	y	y	abstain
Erica Moore		y	y	y	n	n	n	n
Lisa Redmond		no	y	n	n	n	n	n
Jim Robb		y	y	y	n	y	y	y
Nico Ruderman		y	y	y	y	y	y	n
Robert Thibodeau		y	y	y	y	y	n	y
Soledad Ursua		y	y	y	n	y	y	absent
Jason Sugars		y	y	abstain	n	y	y	n
Christopher Lee		y	y	y	n	y	y	n
<b>TOTALS</b>								
		<b>16-1-1-3</b>	<b>18-0-0-3</b>	<b>13-3-2-3</b>	<b>2-16-0-3</b>	12-6-0-3	12-6-0-3	<b>5-9-2-5</b>