



PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

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Board of Officers Regular Meeting Agenda ROUGH DRAFT 6:30-9:30 PM Tuesday, August 20th, 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

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

- 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES July xxx
- 3. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR RECUSALS
- 4. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS
- 5. GOVERNMENT REPORTS
- 6. TREASURER'S REPORT
- 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- 8. CHAIR APPOINTMENTS (Administrative Committee 6-1-1)
 A. DEBORAH KEATON AS OFW CHAIR
 B. SOLEDAD URSUA AS RULES & SELECTIONS CHAIR





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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 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.

11. OLD BUSINESS

ARBOR COMMITTEE

A. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GRAND BLVD LANDSCAPING (4-0-0)

Whereas, Grand Blvd. is a major thoroughfare and has historical significance as one of the original canals, and turning Grand into a parking lot with diagonal parking does not contribute to the character of the "Lost Canals of Venice" neighborhood; and

Whereas, Grand is used as a speedway, and drivers regularly ignore stop signs and speed limits; the introduction of trees and landscaping, and pedestrian and bicycle-friendly circulation will significantly mitigate this hazard; and

Whereas, on September 19, 2005, the Los Angeles City Council adopted Ordinance 176861, which:

Authorized the City Council to designate by Resolution areas where parking is prohibited between 2:00 am and 6:00 am, to issue permits to residents and their guests in residential areas where such parking is prohibited if there is inadequate off-street parking available..., and,

And whereas, the city subsequently established by resolution Venice Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs) 520, 521, 522, 523, and 526 west of Lincoln Blvd., and approved city Coastal Development Permits 08-07, 08-08, 08-09, 08-10 and 08-11 for these OPDs, and this legislation is still valid; and,

Whereas, at a stakeholders' election conducted by the VNC on Feb. 22, 2009, Venice residents voted by a margin of 891 to 608 to grant residents the right to establish OPDs on their streets by resident petition and this remains the position of the VNC (https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/venice-voters-advice-restrict-overnight-parking/1870044/); and





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Whereas, the VNC's Arbor Committee has publicly noted the sparseness of Venice's tree canopy at only 15% coverage, and its stated goal is 30% coverage, and has called for planting trees on excess city land; and,

Whereas, the width of Grand Blvd. is an historical anomaly created by Abbot Kinney; i.e., Grand Blvd. was originally the Grand Canal, and thus made wider than the other canals to accommodate Kinney's dream of recreating Venezia's Grand Canal, which today creates an opportunity to expand Venice's tree canopy by planting down the middle of the street;

MOTION: Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, the Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon Mayor Karen Bass and Councilwoman Traci Park to adopt and find funding for the Neighbors of Grand plan for the "greening" of Grand Blvd.; including a landscaped median primarily consisting of native trees and plants, with an adequate irrigation system, large trees to provide shade and resist urban heat effects; installation of bike paths; a new lane of resident-only overnight parking next to the new median under the existing OPD district and city CDP; and for the city to apply for a state coastal development permit for the designated OPD parking spaces on Grand, and it is further resolved that the Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council rejects diagonal parking on Grand Blvd.

Following passage this Resolution shall be forwarded to Mayor Karen Bass and Councilwoman Traci Park and the general managers of StreetsLA and the Department of Transportation.

B. CIS IN OPPOSITION TO COUNCIL FILE 21-0329-S5 (WRAC)

The Venice Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), opposes the motion in CF 21-0329-S5, which makes implementation of LAMC Sec. 41.18 unnecessarily and unreasonably complicated and needlessly involves county agencies in city policy. The Venice Neighborhood

Council supports LAMC Sec. 41.18, which has been effectively implemented in Council District 11 and other areas of Los Angeles to protect public health and safety and preserve the use of our public spaces for all constituents.

C. CIS IN SUPPORT OF CF 24-0140-S1 (WRAC)

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports CF 24-0140-S1 requesting that the City Attorney provide an analysis of the recent *Grants Pass* ruling and its impact on the City's existing rules relative to sleeping, lying and storage of property in the public right of way and other public settings, including but not limited to Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 41.18, 56.11 and 63.44, as well as its impact on vehicle dwelling.





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12. NEW BUSINESS

13. EXTENSION OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

Motion: The VNC shall renew and extend the committee until the new Public Safety Committee is up and running.

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. **MOTION:** VNC Board of Officers approves the July 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), see supporting documents
- B. Discussion and motion approving 2024-2025 Administrative Packet.

MOTION: VNC Board of officers approves the 2024-2025 Administrative Packet including the 2024-2025 proposed Budget, second signers and credit card holders. (see supporting documents) (3-0-0)

C. **MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves an Outreach Expenditure of up to \$235 to purchase stand-alone Outreach Displays to be placed throughout Venice in select locations. (Outreach Committee 3/8/24, 3/0/0).

DESCRIPTION: To Purchase & place small stand-alone Outreach displays throughout the community. Possible Locations: Beyond Baroque, Venice Library, Boy's & Girls Club, various Schools, Parks and Rec Centers, Venice Heritage Museum, Venice Arts & other Service Providers. There will be a barcode for easy VNC Email sign ups, VNC information cards and any other pertinent VNC handouts (election/events/special meeting flyers, etc.). Replenishing and updating will occur as needed.

D. MOTION The VNC Board of officers approves extending the walking tour app provided by STORY (formerly Pocket Sights) for up to \$300 for the 2024-25 fiscal period (currently \$23/month) (2-0-0)

15.LUPC

A. 2520 LINCOLN BLVD. (6-0-1)

MOTION: Number: ZA-2023-7556-CUB Project Description: 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.





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B. OPPOSITION TO VENICE AUXILIARY PUMPING PLANT (3-1-2)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council opposes CPC-2024-2010-GPA-ZC-CU2-SPPC--allowing the City of Los Angeles to obtain a General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Zone Change (ZC) from RW2-1 to Public Facilities at 133 Hurricane St., a Project Review (SPPC), and a Conditional Use for the construction, use, and maintenance of a public parking area in a residential zone (CU2) for the empty lots located at 128 Hurricane St/3913 Esplanade--unless LA Public Works (LAPW) materially and in good faith addresses the community's serious issues with this project, including but not limited to: 1. Conformance to the certified Venice LUP (Policies I.A.5, I.C.1, I.C.6, and I.D.1); 2. Adherence to courtmandated ESHA protections in the surrounding lagoon area; 3. Mitigation of EIR issues related to loss of species and habitat, groundwater impact, and potentially significant methane gas release; 4. Mitigation of "significant and unavoidable" issues including ground-borne vibration, which could result in residential building damage, and construction noise that exceeds LA CEQA Thresholds guidelines; 5. Improvement of inadequate emergency access during construction activities; 6. Change to five day/week construction instead of proposed six days/week; 7. Elimination of the proposed parking lot at 128 Hurricane St. for which parking requirements can be fulfilled via restricted street parking around the current Venice Pumping Plant (VPP), a savings of at least \$2.5 million to the city; 8. Modification of project design so that it is compatible with its residentially zoned neighborhood; 9. Protection of residential properties from dirt, dust and other construction impacts; 10.Upgrade of deficient maintenance plan for both the new and existing facility.

DESCRIPTION: Background LADWP has proposed the Venice Auxiliary Pumping Plant (VAPP) at 128 Hurricane St and an associated parking lot for employees and limited public use at 133 Hurricane St, MDR. The residents acknowledge the VAPP is considered critical infrastructure. During the final city approval process, the City Planning Commission instructed LAPW to meet with the community regarding these important issues. However, LAPW never meaningfully addressed any concerns regarding the impact of this project. Specifically, the proposed facility does not conform to the Venice LUP as the use conflicts with: (1) Policy 1.A.5 that seeks to preserve and protect stable multi-family neighborhoods, (2) Policy I.C.1 that states that the scale and design of such facilities must be compatible with adjacent and neighboring uses, (3) Policy 1.C.6 that states that hazardous industrial uses shall not be located adjacent to residential areas and, (4) Policy 1.D.1 that states that the only permitted development adjacent to the canal and lagoon shall be habitat restoration, single family homes and parks. The plan also does not meet established Public Benefit standards including no 10' landscaped, irrigated buffer along all property lines and is based on performance standards applicable to projects on a major or secondary highway, not a residential street. Environmentally, the Ballona Lagoon and Grand Canal are





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recognized as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) which legally cannot be disturbed. Section 30240 of the Coastal Act requires that ESHA be protected and that development adjacent to ESHA be designed to prevent impacts that significantly degrade the ESHA. Previous court cases have found that dredging and use of any heavy equipment in the lagoon is not allowed, but which is part of the city's plan for this project. In addition, the project EIR and addendum were both instigated and certified internally by Public Works without any public outreach for the addendum or arms-length analysis by a recognized independent party, resulting in a final mitigation plan insufficient to address the anticipated damage to the Grand Canal and Ballona Lagoon. This includes loss of species and habitat, groundwater impact and potentially significant methane gas release. Based on a request by Public Works for a "regional solution," the community put forth a plan to address at least some of these issues, Phase Two of the Grand Canal Restoration Plan. Phase One had previously been completed by the city. Phase Two was approved but not executed. However, Public Works never expressed any interest to engage in a productive dialogue towards a meaningful outcome. The EIR also identified "significant and unavoidable" issues that will materially impact resident quality-of-life for the multi-year duration of construction including but not limited to (1) ground-borne vibration levels which could result in residential building damage, (2) noise levels that exceed construction noise criteria provided by the LA CEQA Thresholds Guidelines and (3) inadequate emergency access during construction activities. The parking lot element of the VAPP plan proposes a dual use employee/limited public lot at 128 Hurricane St to include benches and public art. There is very little community support for this facility. It will create safety issues as a magnet for homeless individuals given the easy access into the lot as well as unnecessary traffic congestion on Hurricane St, especially during heavy beach use periods. The community has proposed an alternative solution addressing employee and public parking needs without development of this site at a savings of at least \$2.5M to the city. Further, these funds can be used to address many of the issues raised in this motion. It is also important to note the parking lot was not included in the original presentations to the community and VNC. Additionally, there have not been any modifications to community requests for (1) five day/week construction vs proposed six days/week, (2) a project design that was never adequately presented to the community and does not fit within its residentially-zoned neighborhood, (3) an ongoing plan to protect residential properties from dirt, dust and other construction impacts and (4) an appropriate, sustainable maintenance plan for both the new and existing facility.

C. 23 WINDWARD AVE (5-0-1)

Music Entertainment Facility and restaurant in the Venice SP

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers recommends approval of the project as presented. (supporting docs will be provided)





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16. OCEAN FRONT WALK

A. MANDATORY SIGNAGE REGARDING MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON OCEANFRONT WALK

MOTION: WHEREAS, scooters and other motorized vehicles are banned from riding on the boardwalk as well as the bicycle path, and WHEREAS, there are several vendors of these vehicles at Oceanfront Walk that rent and sell such items, and WHEREAS, none of these retailers display notice or notification that reminds the renter or owner that these vehicles are banned from ridership on the boardwalk or the bike path, and WHEREAS, the ridership of these vehicles have become a danger to pedestrians as well as non-electric or motorized vehicles, and THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Venice Oceanfront Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council request that a letter be sent to the Los Angeles Police Department as well as the CD-11 Council Office requesting that signage be created and distributed to all vehicle/bicycle/scooter rental retailers informing consumers that the usage of these vehicles is banned on OFW as well as the LA County Bicycle path.

DESCRIPTION: Ask LAPD to create signage for scooter vendors and other motorized vehicles that are forbidden from riding on the boardwalk or bicycle path.

17.ARBOR COMMITTEE

A. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT REGARDING ARTIFICIAL TURF (4-0-0)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council board votes to support the Los Angeles City Council File #24-0602 in transitioning away from the future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass and incentivize drought-friendly landscaping. The artificial turf surface sheds microplastics and the runoff it causes can become contaminated with PFAS and pollute our drinking water and oceans. Artificial turf cannot be recycled and will end up in the landfill, continuing to pollute the environment. In addition, it off-gasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis, unlike real grass and other plants. Nothing lives in artificial turf. It also kills the soil and the living organisms in it, removing natural habitat. It is safer and more cost effective to use grass for playing fields rather than substituting artificial turf.

DESCRIPTION: For the VNC board to vote to submit a community impact statement in connection with City Council File #24-0602 in transitioning away from the future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass and incentivize drought-friendly





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landscaping.

18. SCHEDULING DECEMBER 2024 VNC MEETING

MOTION: Board of Officers will hold its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday December 17th via Zoom.

DESCRIPTION: Westminster School is not available on the third Tuesday of December. The December Board meeting needs to be held elsewhere if in person or on Zoom. Motion is to hold the meeting on Zoom.

19. RULES AND SELECTIONS

A. Standing Rule allowing for Co-Chairs of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees (4-0-0)

MOTION: The Board of Officers hereby adds the following to its Standing Rules: Committees: 1. The VNC Board may appoint Co-Chairs to chair Standing Committees when two Board Members would like to work together as Co-Chairs. Ad hoc Committees are also permitted to operate with Co-Chairs. The resignation of one Co-Chair will only require reappointment by the Board of a replacement Co-Chair if the remaining Co-Chair requests to have another Co-Chair. 2. A committee Chair or Co-Chair appointed by the Board may be removed by majority vote of the Board for not holding active meetings, or any violations of the Bylaws and/or Standing Rules.

DESCRIPTION: VNC bylaws are silent on the issue of co-chairs -- neither forbidding or permitting. Over the years, it has been the VNC practice to have cochairs, when requested by Board Members or Stakeholders who wanted to work together and didn't want sole responsibility for running a committee. Bylaws are also silent on how the Board removes a chair. This standing rule clarifies how Co-Chairs are appointed and for what causes a Board appointed Chair or Co-Chair can be removed in order to avoid a grievance against the Board.

B. Standing Rule for Community Impact Statements (CIS) (4-0-0

MOTION: The Board of Officers hereby adds the following to its Standing Rules: Community Impact Statements: 1. At the start of a new Board term, the Board will appoint the President, Secretary and up to three additional Board Members who are authorized to submit Community Impact Statements (CIS) by providing the official authorization form to Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). 2. Any advisory opinion, guidance, or recommendation adopted currently or previously by a majority vote of the Venice Neighborhood Council Board shall be





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considered an "Official Position" of the Council and may be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the City Council or the City's Commissions, Boards and Departments. 3. A current CIS must be filed within 10 business days of the Board meeting at which it was passed. In the absence of a designated filer for the CIS, the VNC Secretary is responsible for filing the CIS.

DESCRIPTION: The City Clerk accepts statements from certified Neighborhood Councils that have governing boards in place and have voted in a public meeting in accord with the Brown Act to: a) approve a particular CIS; or, b) authorize the President or other Board members to write and submit CISs expressing the Board's previously voted upon positions. Filing a CIS gives the NC a unique opportunity to give input to the City. This Standing Rule makes certain that: 1) Incoming Boards are aware of the process and procedure; 2) Confusion is eliminated and also resolves that previous positions and current actions taken cannot be submitted as a CIS unless the Board can inform the City, without having to revisit a position if no Council File was available or was not known to the Board when a motion was passed; and, 4) Also clarifies that a CIS can not only be sent to the City Council and its Committees but can also be sent to City Commissions, City Boards and Departments.

C. Clean up of current Standing Rules (4-0-0)

MOTION: The Board of Officer hereby removes the following from its Standing Rules:

- 2 Neighborhood Committee
- 8. Code of Ethics
- 11. Principles of Representation (1. to stay, from 2. on down)
- 12. Vacancies
- 15. Definition of Factual Basis Shareholder... (previously deleted 9.11.17)
- 17. Dispute Resolution Service 19. Limitation on Ratification of Bylaws Amendments
- 21. Elections, Ratifications, Referendums
- Board Absences Defined
- 24 Hour Notice "Special Meetings"





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D. MARCH 2025 Election Report/Presentation to Board at August meeting (4-0-0)

Presentation to the Board about the 2025 election.

The Rules and Selections Committee moved (see minutes) to have a brief presentation (5 mins max) about the upcoming 2025 Election, including changes, timeline/ schedule, and funding, to name a few.

E.Standing Rule regarding Code of Conduct requirement as it applies to non-Board Stakeholder Committee members (4-0-0)

MOTION: The Board of Officers hereby adds the following to its Standing Rules: Code of Conduct: The Rules and Elections Committee will be the centralized tracking and verification to ensure all VNC Stakeholder Committee Members are in compliance of their required training. All Committee Chairs are responsible for ensuring their Committee members' Code of Conduct is current. Committee Chairs will distribute and collect signed Code of Conduct forms, and forward to the Rules and Elections Committee. Rules and Elections will post the Code of Conduct tracking form on their webpage to provide transparency.

DESCRIPTION: DONE now requires non-Board Stakeholder Committee members to sign a Code of Conduct. NCs must collect and verify those Code of Conducts, and submit the information to DONE. This Standing Rule clarifies how that will be managed within the VNC.

F. Standing Rule for scheduling Committee meetings

MOTION: The Board of Officers hereby adds the following to its Standing Rules: Meetings: All Committees are required to establish a regular periodic meeting date and post on the VNC website calendar. Committee Chairs will coordinate with the Vice President to ensure there is no overlap between Committee meetings. No Committee meeting will conflict with an Administrative Committee or Board meeting. Standing Committee scheduling takes priority over Ad Hoc Committees.

DESCRIPTION: On regular occasion, VNC Committee meetings overlap, leading to confusion and frustration for Stakeholders and Board members who regularly attend Committee meetings. This Standing Rule will keep that from occurring.





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20. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

21. 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

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: <u>NCsupport@lacity.org</u>

Public Posting of Agendas -

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- www.VeniceNC.org
- Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's <u>Early Notification System</u> (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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or 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 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.

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 <u>www.VeniceNC.org</u>



















