



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



Board of Officers ROUGH DRAFT
6:30-9:30 PM Tuesday, Nov. 19th , 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	Fran Solomon	
Michael Jensen	Clark Brown	CJ Cole	
Nico Ruderman	Steve Bradbury	Soledad Ursua	

2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES -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. 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.



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9. 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.

10. OLD BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BUDGET AND FINANCE

A. MER

B. ?

C. ?

13. VENICE MEDIAN PROJECT LETTER (BA)

MOTION: Venice Neighborhood Council requests the Mayor, the City Attorney, the City Council President, and the CD-11 Councilmember to take the necessary actions to assure that the Coastal Commission does not schedule any hearings for the proposed public parking garage project, Affordable Housing project, and LUP amendments unless and until the significantly revised plans and LUP amendments go through the proper City processes with the Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission, City Transportation Commission, and LA City Council.

DESCRIPTION: Whereas on October 22, 2024 the applicant for the Venice Median project submitted substantially changed plans to the Coastal Commission that are not in conformance with the original City approval, including but not limited to: a significant 28% reduction in the low-income affordable housing units (from 68 to 49), reduction of one manager (25% decrease, from 4 to 3) and with no planned security for the development, co-mingling of public and private parking in the west garage, desecration of the historic Pacific Electric Short Line Venice Canal Bridge, removal of previously proposed community cafe and art studio space, addition of a large ocean view roof deck on west garage in place of additional, and other changes;

Whereas the plans and updated/corrected costs (and related adverse impact on the City's General Fund in light of the budget crisis) for the construction of the new City public parking garage have not yet gone before the City Transportation Commission or City Council, as required; the Reuse and Loan Committee Analyses (including questionable site appraisal and significant risks, such as funding risk/"gap analysis", rising interest rates, rising construction costs, cost and availability of insurance, and risk of loss of federal Project Based Vouchers—PBV—in the short and long term) for the Affordable Housing project have not yet gone before City Council, as required; and the substantially changed October 22, 2024 plans have not gone before City Council;



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Whereas the October 22, 2024 revised plans—which include even further destruction of the historic Pacific Electric Short Line Venice Canal Bridge, built by Abbot Kinney in 1905 and on the National and California Historic Registers, by destroying its “apron” and materially changing it from auto, bike and pedestrian access, reducing it to a mere narrow footpath between the campuses of the affordable housing project, becoming a design and landscaping feature--have not gone before the Office of Historic Resources/Cultural Heritage Commission for review of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);

Whereas an expansion of public parking on Lot 731 is mandated in the certified Land Use Plan (LUP) and as a result of 2023 State Assembly Bill 2097--which in May 2024 became applicable to the majority of Venice, including the Boardwalk and the area near the project site--the Coastal Commission has given a directive to mitigate the significant loss of parking due to AB 2097 by increasing public parking facilities; and

Whereas the Coastal Commission is planning to have the final hearing for the multiple appeals of the project (Substantial Issue appeal hearing), for the October 22, 2024 revised plans for the City public parking garage project and the Affordable Housing project, and for the LUP amendments, at their December 2024 meeting.

14. SCHOOLS AND PARKS

A.Venice OFW Playground Update Letter (5-0-0)

MOTION: Send a letter to RAP & CD11 requesting alterations from the community to the most recent design of Ocean Front Walk

DESCRIPTION: (Letter in supporting docs?)

Dear RAP and CD11: Following are requested alterations from the community to the most recent design of the Ocean Front Walk Playground:

- Omit surfboards between some swings
 - Blue shade sails instead of green (blue like the sky; this is not in a tree canopy)
 - Provide picnic tables for the enjoyment of the community
 - Shade over seating
 - Shade over swings
 - Natural boulders in lieu of fabricated fiberglass
 - Do either of the boats provide a challenge for children? If not, perhaps replace the catamaran with something more engaging such as a slack rope or spinners.
 - The Rose Ave playground on Ocean Front Walk is well liked except for its proximity to bathrooms which raises safety issues. Please draw from that playground design, perhaps in a blue green palette.
-



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Note: The VNC Schools & Parks committee has not received digital copies of this most recent design. Please send the latest design to the VNC so we can share it with our Venice stakeholders. Please contact us with questions and provide updated drawings. Thank you

B.Security And Ordinance Enforcement Needed At Penmar Recreation Center (5-0-0)

MOTION: 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: WHEREAS, 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 inconsistent 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.

14. LUPC

A.52 & 60 Market Street (6-1-0)



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MOTION: Motion to approve as presented

DESCRIPTION: 1) CDP 2) A Specific Plan Project Permit (1) the redesignation of two existing dwelling units as “artist-in-residence” with no change to the number of existing dwelling units or guest rooms, (2) the construction of an arcade in the public right-of-way to be modeled after the original historic Market Street Arcade and, (3) a 282-square foot commercial addition to the ground floor and 200-square foot residential addition to second floor of the existing building in the Single-Permit Jurisdiction of the Venice Coastal Zone. 3) A Specific Plan Exception to allow a zero-(0)- foot residential setback at the second floor in lieu of the five feet required by the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan 4) New conditional use permit to allow the on-site sale of a full-line of alcoholic beverages in conjunction with a proposed restaurant/ cafe operating under a Type 47 ABC license. 5) Waiver of Dedication or Improvements

B.Venice Boys PCN Request (Changes requested from AdCom)

MOTION: 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”). *NOTE: 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.*

DESCRIPTION: 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 in Supporting Documents

C.38 Market (5-1-0)

MOTION: Motion to approve as presented

DESCRIPTION: CDP for a change of use of a non-conforming single story manufacturing facility to restaurant with ground floor dining patio and roof deck dining area. This project would continue the restaurant use already established on Market street and enliven the West end of the street. The rooftop use will have a visual



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connection to the Boardwalk and establishes an upgrade to the existing car parking spaces situated there. The layout of the restaurant and its kitchen is well designed and optimizes the existing structure. The character of the street with its former industrial and manufacturing buildings is well preserved and minimizes alterations to the facade and structure. The parking required is met with a generous accounting of cycle parking and an offsite parking agreement. 55 Required Parking = 9 on site Parking + 20 grandfathered parking spaces + 10 next door off site mechanical parking + 27 Biking stalls on Market street + 13 Biking stalls inside the restaurant

15. ARBOR

A. Artificial Turf Sign-On Letter (4-0-0)

MOTION: VNC Board to sign the Letter by the NCSA (Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance)

DESCRIPTION: After the VNC submitted the CIS on council file 24-0602, the artificial turf motion came before the city council on 9/17. The original motion was replaced by a substitute motion introduced by Paul Krekorian of CD2, which weakened the language significantly regarding a pathway towards the ban of artificial turf and was passed the same day. As a response to the weakened motion, the NCSA (Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance) has prepared the sign-on letter and is asking organizations to sign the letter. Pico Union and Palms Neighborhood Council have done so among many other organizations (they are listed on the letter).

16. PRESERVING PUBLIC PLACES

A. Support for creation of Venice Oceanarium Pavilion (4-0-0 & 1 recusal)

MOTION: The Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council supports the creation of the Venice Oceanarium Pavilion museum, replacing the historic bait & tackle shop, on the end of the Venice Fishing Pier.

DESCRIPTION: The museum will educate and enlighten the public to the wonders of the sea and ecosystems unique to the Southern California coast. The open concept Pavilion, will house specimens, artifacts, interactive exhibits and our integrative programming, which blends Marine Science and Art through experiential learning. Included is an observation hatch with state of the art water sampling equipment, live reef cam viewing and Citizen Scientist opportunities. www.VeniceOceanarium.org/about

B. Historic Cultural Monument Designation and Refurbishment of the Venice Pagodas (5-0-0)

MOTION: The Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council District 11 Office move to have the unique and historic Venice Pagodas which



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line Ocean Front Walk, giving it a continuous artistic and distinctive character, be designated Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monuments and, in conjunction with the Department of Recreation and Park, have the pagodas refurbished immediately.

DESCRIPTION: Description: The pagodas are hexagonal umbrellas, originally designed and built in the 1930 as part of the Works Progress Administration.

Architectural drawings of the pagodas are included in the 1969 blueprints of the hexagonal Venice Lifeguard Station. Originally there were 6 sets of pagodas. Five sets, which include 32 wooden umbrellas and seating, were repaired or rebuilt by the Department of Recreation and Parks as part of the 1997 Venice Beach Refurbishment. All pagodas are currently in need of repairs, as was requested by the Venice Neighborhood Council in its April 2022 motion. The pagodas have been referred to as “Landmarks” for decades and are included in Survey LA. Recently, conflicting reports have been given to stakeholders indicating that the pagodas may be at risk of demolition. A stakeholder petition to repair the pagodas immediately garnered over 125 signatures: <https://chnng.it/V2pTSKrykX>

Distribution: RAP.Commissioners@LACity.org, Councilmember.Park@LACity.org, Office of Historic Resources: lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, LA Conservancy: Imulcahy@laconservancy.org, Cultural Heritage Commission:

C.Restoration & Completion of Ceramic Tiles & Fishes on Ocean Front Walk (5-0-0)

MOTION: The Board of he Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Cultural Affairs and City Council District 11 provide funding and permits for the fabrication and installation of replacement and additional new ceramic tiles and fishes originally commissioned in 1997 by the City of Los Angeles within the Venice Beach Refurbishment Project of artists Tamie Smith and William Attaway, for their installation on benches and bathrooms along Ocean Front Walk.

DESCRIPTION: The ceramic tiles created by Smith, installed on benches along Ocean Front Walk, depict historic scenes. Ceramic fishes and related sea creatures, installed on bathroom walls, were created by Smith, Attaway and together with children in the artists project. A few tiles need to be replaced. The project fell short of commissioning the artists to complete the tiles and fishes for all of the bathroom walls.

D.Venice Lifeguard Station - Repairs Needed (5-0-0)

MOTION: Venice Neighborhood Council requests that Mayor Bass, the City Attorney, the City Controller, the Commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Cultural Heritage Commission, and City Councilmember Park contact LA County Supervisor Lindsay Horvath (or all County Supervisors) to ask that repairs of our Historic Cultural Monument: the Venice Lifeguard Station, be undertaken, as per



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the Joint Powers Agreement, immediately, to prevent further deterioration and in preparation for the upcoming 2028 Olympics

17. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

18. 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: 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
- 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. 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 www.VeniceNC.org
