



# Venice Neighborhood Council

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

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) Phone: 310-421-8627

## Venice Arbor Committee (VArb) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 17th, 2025

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Meeting Location: Zinque, 1440 Lincoln Ave., Venice, CA

Contact: [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com), [a.kemkes@verizon.net](mailto:a.kemkes@verizon.net)

### 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 the Venice Branch Library at our website: <https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/venice-arbor-committee> 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 Sarah Wauters at [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).

### Public Posting of Agendas -

Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA90291
- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive all Venice Neighborhood Council agendas by email, subscribe to <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils>.

### (Brown Act Required Language): 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 comment will be limited to one comment for 60 seconds per item.

- Please do not raise your hand more than once per item
- Raise your hand at the start of the items you want to speak on. We will then close public comment and announce the last person to speak a few minutes after the start of the item.
- No ceding your time to others will be allowed
- The meeting is being video and audio recorded.
- The public will be able to listen and speak but their video will be disabled.

Sarah Wauters, Co-Chair	x	Andreas Kemkes, Co-Chair	x
Isabelle Duvivier	x	Barry Campion	x
Janin Paine	NP	Eric Schiff	x
Nico Ruderman (ex-officio)	NP		

1. Call to Order – Approve last month’s minutes, Barry moved, ES second, 5-0-0
2. PUBLIC COMMENT (will be limited to 1 minute to the general public only, at this time).  
Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration.
3. REPORTS
  - a. Chair Report – Andreas Kemkes or Sarah Wauters - Andreas K gave overview on the final report of the Protected Tree Ordinance Adhoc Committee to CFAC.
  - b. Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier - nothing to report as CFAC did not meet this month
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Santa Monica Mountains Fires - which organizations will be working to restore and how can we help? Talk to Tracy Park about new ordinance that could protect the street trees that have not died in the fires - and to plant native trees that resist fires, like Toyon and Coast Live Oak. Resilient Palisades - Ingrid - looking for something to do. Reach out and educate. Passed motion to urge city not to demolish living trees in the Palisades as follows (Isabelle Duvivier motion to approve, Barry Campion seconds, 5-0-0):



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## MOTION CONCERNING URBAN CANOPY OF PACIFIC PALISADES AND BRENTWOOD

Whereas a large portion of Los Angeles' urban canopy resides in the Palisades and Brentwood neighborhoods; and this urban canopy provides cooling and air quality benefits to the city, and because a large portion of the Palisades and parts of Brentwood have burned, a large amount of Urban Canopy is at risk. A resulting reduction in Urban Canopy could affect our microclimate for years to come;

Whereas the street trees of Palisades and Brentwood provide substantial beauty, mental health benefits and habitat to residents, as well as soil stability and prevention of slides, every effort should be made to save surviving trees. **Many trees that look burned are still alive and will be able to return and thrive** and, in order to save the graceful, beautiful trees of these beleaguered neighborhoods, interim actions should be taken;

Whereas Emergency Executive Order No. 1 provides for immediate and expedited removal of debris and provides for a Debris Manager, and a rushed removal of fire debris presents a risk of demolition of resilient trees that are surviving and are capable of recovery;

Whereas many environmental and urban canopy groups in the Palisades are presently in disarray;

Venice Neighborhood Council hereby resolves that the new Emergency Executive Order No. 1, should include language specifically preserving existing city trees and private trees from demolition, including all street trees of 6" diameter at breast height (DBH) or greater, and that some federal disaster relief be devoted to maintaining trees by water truck during the interim demolition and construction period.

Following passage this Resolution shall be forwarded to Mayor Karen Bass, Councilwoman Traci Park, general managers of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation, as well as the newly appointed Debris Manager of the City.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. MTA Housing at Main and Sunset

Stretch along Sunset needs bigger tree-wells. Need wide parkway to plant oaks as part of the pollinator corridor project PARC (VVG along with CD11 Foundation and Venice Beach BID). Current illustration shows palm trees with a 3 foot parkway. Provide an 8 foot or larger parkway with possible 8x8 tree well bulbouts as a fallback.

Sarah reads draft motion, Eric moves, Andreas seconds, 5-0-0.

### **Motion to Urge MTA New Housing to Preserve and Enhance Green Space**

Whereas coast live oak is a keystone native tree;

Whereas coast live oak is resilient to fires, and supports local biodiversity like insects and birds;

Whereas the parkway on Sunset east of Main is 8ft., and an extension past Main to Pacific would keep the aesthetic consistent;



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Whereas City Council person Traci Park has manifested the Pollinator and Resilience Corridor project in collaboration with VVG and the CD11 Foundation together with Venice Beach BID;

Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge the city to provide an 8 ft. or larger parkway on Sunset between Main Street and Pacific on the south side of the street, in order to plant significant trees like oaks and as a segment of the pollinator corridor project which runs along Sunset and Rose.

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

- b. Shell Circle Project  
Barry reached out to some neighbors. Positive response. More neighbors will be contacted within the neighborhood. Next steps are a future meeting at the circle.
- c. Billboards - Excessive tree trimming - SRW to contact Ian regarding Rose and Venice.  
Draft something for the VNC to get stiffer language into the LA code. City of West Hollywood may have an ordinance (ask Mark Abramson re: their language).

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 7. ADJOURNED

### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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