



# 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: December 20th, 2024

Meeting Time: 10:30 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)

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

1. Call to Order – Approve November minutes, Barry Campion moves to approve, SRW seconded. 6-0-0.
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
  - b. Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier - Isabelle wants to increase enforcement for protected trees.
  - c. VVG Report – Noel Johnston or Isabelle Duvivier - Dune projects are dead.
  - d. Pollinator Project - Janin Paine -
4. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. MTA Site - Jay Stark was expected, he was unable to attend.
5. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Billboards - Letter from Isabelle re billboard policy. Billboard companies are chopping down or dramatically pruning public trees. LA does ban billboards except in allowed zones. Lincoln and Venice billboard seems to have trimmed the Sycamore trees that were then beleaguered and eventually cut down. California courts have rejected notion of billboards “right to be seen.” Sarah proposed no tree trimming for billboards to be added to the code. Institution of fines added. Sarah would like to put together a motion. Isabelle suggests looking at the power points that exist at next meeting. Possibly invite George Francisco. Sarah will interact with Theresa Maysonet. Possibly require billboards to have their own security camera.
  - b. Santa Monica Airport - Andreas reports. Various ideas on table – re-wilding.etc. Might be an opportunity for us to collaborate.
6. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Dell Project - the developer of this project and others have suggested switching housing onto Farmer’s Market site.



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- b. Shell Circle Project - Barry will talk to Patty and Joseph who live there.
  
- c. Protection of Trees – Some of the same logic used for the billboard issue could be used here. Andreas states no reports in Venice in Nov. and Dec. Two coast live oaks being removed in Brentwood that are in the building footprint. The one on Green has been granted. Also some removed for transformers. Glyndon tree was removed. Isabelle suggests we possibly take on the planting of the Engleman oak.
  
- d. Letter to Landscape Architect for Rose to specify Species – Species Suggestions (In. 9/20/24)  
Sarah sent an email, including Charles Miller's recommendation letter for the Rose Revitalization Project, as an individual to Alexander Caiozzo, landscape architect for StreetsLA. Based on Charles's letter, asked him not to include the invasive Chinese Flame Tree, which also produces a lot of litter, and to prefer native plants in the plan. Requested 3-4 bulbouts, and to make sidewalks as narrow as possible and allowable for more planting spaces.

They said they will consider other trees and propose this to "the community." Bulbouts are only planned around pines currently. City standard is a 5' sidewalk and they won't install any 36 inch sidewalks.

We will continue to voice advocacy for natives. Possibly launch a fundraising effort for increasing bulbouts.

Isabelle suggests making the sidewalk 4 feet around the trees.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 8. ADJOURNED

### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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 and 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 you wish to attend by contacting Sarah Wauters at 917 822 2247 by text or email at [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).