



# 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: February 21st, 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)
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### (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	X	Eric Schiff	x
Nico Ruderman (ex-officio)			

- 1.
2. Call to Order – January minutes Andreas moved to approve, Barry seconded, 5-0-1 (Janin Paine unavailable at the time of vote)..
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (will be limited to 1 minute to the general public only, at this time). Lydia Ponce attended to make a bridge between the native American community and the tree planting community – logo should be an indigenous Lorax!
4. REPORTS
  - a. Chair Report – Chair report – VArb’s Jan. motion with regard to preserving trees in the burn area, drafted a letter for CFAC, they made amendments and sent them to the Colonel of Army Corps of Engineers, and apparently action has been taken to preserve salvageable trees. Andreas – nothing significant in CD11 with regard to trees being cut down, but a total of 12 in other areas (Silverlake) including Elderberry and Toyon on private property.
  - b. Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier - CFAC started a new fire resiliency committee, Isabelle and Andreas are joining.
  - c. VVG Report – Isabelle Duvivier - VVG report Isabelle, big pollinator event tomorrow. Planting around 100 plants 7-8 native trees, other trees in her back yard will get planted in the next month.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS



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- a. **Dell Project on LADOT Parking Lot 701** - Inventory of Trees there - Sarah Reports – Traci Park put forth a motion to consider the study the possibility of placing the Dell housing development at Farmer’s Market. It has passed the Transportation Committee. Sarah did inventory of the trees to augment the street-tree-only survey by the city. If you include the parkway there are 32 Sycamores, and 19 oaks including the small oaks we’ve planted around the Farmer’s Market portion of the parking lot. Carve-outs for sycamores are also used for parking lot drainage. Additionally, there are 23 Sycamores down the side parking lot next to Mark Mack building and 10 oaks there (including baby oaks).

The existing parking lot is an example of brilliant Low Impact Design. Guidelines - RAP just released treecare guidelines, when building around trees must maintain Rec and Park tree maintenance booklet. Motion:

## **Venice Arbor Committee - Motion to Raise Awareness of City Assets at Farmer’s Market Parking Lot 701**

**Whereas** City Council has passed a motion (Case File 15-1138-S42) to study the alternative use of Parking Lot 701 (Farmer’s Market Lot) instead of Parking Lot 731 for housing along Venice Boulevard (known as the Venice Dell Community Housing Project);

**Whereas** Parking Lot 701 possesses a large number of city assets, including a large number of Native Trees – 55 x 30 year-old Sycamores, 29 Coast Live Oaks - and forward-thinking Low Impact Development swales that carved out concrete from the greater parking lot - comprising 2240 cumulative years of tree growth;

**Whereas** Venice community members worked together with CALTrans and received considerable grant monies to plant the tree assets now growing in Parking Lot 701, approximately 30 years ago, and are part of what comprises what is likely the largest concentration of Native Trees within Venice (the trees along Venice from Lincoln to Pacific);

**Whereas** recent studies from USC show that the trees of Los Angeles are offsetting close to 30% of carbon emissions during the year, 60% during the summer, and any loss of offset poses a loss of important city services;

**Whereas** construction of housing units at Parking Lot 701 would necessarily remove trees growing in the footprint of such designed building and would challenge the health of or kill trees growing in the parkway;

Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge the city to acknowledge the tree and design assets planted and growing since approximately 30 years ago at Parking Lot 701, the removal of which would represent a massive loss of shade, cooling, carbon offset, property value of neighboring buildings, habitat and beauty.

Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge that the city institute strict tree protection measures, as per section 4 of the Recreation and Parks Department tree care guidelines, such that parkway trees near Parking Lot 701 next to the construction will be fenced off and watered during construction.



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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, the commissioners of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

Sarah makes motion, Barry seconds it. 5-0-0.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Livable Communities Presentation to Joint Meeting with LUPC - Liveable communities from Andreas – proposal to build fifteen-minute cities like European cities want to get them in front of the VNC board. He reached out to LUPC and would like VARb to support it. Motion drafted to be considered by LUPC of City Council to build single stair buildings in association with California AB835 that requires an assessment by the State Fire Marshal. Allows for saving more green space with the same amount of units, more air circulation, more family units. Need to give input on tree plans. Andreas and Sarah will go to an event in Larchmont on March 1st. Urban designs should plan for wider parkways and more trees.
- b. Santa Monica Mountains Fires - Resilient Palisades - take that motion to WRAC - they are meeting with Rachel. Talk to Nico and Brian - Direct pathway to Stephen Dupre - they would hire and they would plant trees. We should interact - Nurit Katz has mentioned she's getting information from ACE that they are going to seed with non natives. Isabelle to go to the Resiliency Committee of CFAC. Malibu Foundation.
- c. MTA Housing at Main and Sunset - no new discussion
- d. Shell Circle Project - Shell Circle group will meet within a week or so, and Barry will report back at the next VARb meeting.
- e. Billboards - Excessive tree trimming - no new discussion

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 8. ADJOURNED

### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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