



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org



Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes

Extra Space Storage, Presidents Row Room
658 South Venice Blvd, Venice, 90291
Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM

NOTE: All ACTIONS TAKEN, unless otherwise noted, were decided by unanimous vote and the chair abstained.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Linda Lucks, Chair; Carolyn Rios; Ira Koslow; Joe Murphy; Hugh Harrison; Kristopher Valentine.
Absent: Cindy Chambers; Daffodil Tyminski.

2. Approval of the Administrative Committee Agenda & Draft Board Agenda

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Approved as amended

3. Approval of outstanding Administrative Committee minutes

February 07, 2011 <http://venicenc.org/files/070211AdComDraftMinutes.pdf>
March 07, 2011 <http://venicenc.org/files/110307AdComDraftMinutes.pdf>
April 11, 2011 <http://venicenc.org/files/110411AdComDraftMinutes.pdf>

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Approved

4. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

5. Old Administrative Committee Business

[Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

A Report from Task Force assigned to Re-view Fulfilling Duties & Responsibilities of the VNC Secretary: Ira Koslow, Cindy Chambers, Daffodyl Tyminski:

- 1) Re-visit Expectations for Fulfilling VNC Secretary Role
- 2) Outline Plan for Remediation
- 3) Identify Actions Associated with Failure to Comply

Ira Koslow: reported that the Task Force assigned to Re-view Fulfilling Duties & Responsibilities of the VNC Secretary, formed at the April 11, 2011 Administrative Committee Meeting, split their investigation into three areas of concern (1 per Task Force member) as follows:

Daffodil Tyminski	Format of Minutes: Style, Template, Understandability
Cindy Chambers	Challis Macpherson Request (see next item B)
Ira Koslow	Expectations of Secretary

In presenting his report, he mentioned that Board member Amanda Seward, the designated VNC contact with the city attorney's office, and Cindy Chambers were communicating about the Brown Act. He also mentioned that the Task Force wished to submit its report at the June 13, 2011 Administrative Committee Meeting after meeting with the Secretary. Linda Lucks mentioned the names of three city previous attorneys who have worked on NC issues, Griego (no longer with the City Attorney, King (different department), Martinez. The Current City Attorney is AP Diaz who is supervised by Darren Martinez.

The Secretary submitted a document summarizing the responsibilities of the Secretary ([110509JDMSummary-SecretaryResponsibilities.doc](#)).



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ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Postponed to June 13, 2011 Administrative Committee Meeting

- B** **Response to Stakeholder Letter Re: Joe Murphy;** Linda Lucks (President@Venicenc.org)
See AdCom Exhibit A

Stakeholder Challis MacPherson asking that VNC Board of Officers take formal action to correct issue of possible Brown Act violations.

From: Challis Macpherson [mailto:challis.macpherson@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 5:23 PM
To: lindalucks@aol.com
Cc: BOARD@VeniceNC.org; ivan13147@verizon.net
Subject: Brown Act violations

Dear Madam VNC President:

I have been listening to various VNC Board officers telling me that Joe Murphy, VNC Board Secretary, is sending out communications that express his opinion on matters that are within the jurisdiction of the VNC Board, which is a violation of the Brown Act.

I am requesting that the VNC Board of Officers take formal action to correct this behavior including the possibility of censure and/or removal from the VNC Board of Officers.

I expect to hear back from you, Madam President, within thirty (30) day as to how you intend to resolve this issue, or I will be forced to take further action.

Sincerely,
 Challis Macpherson, VNC Stakeholder
 Former VNC Board Member

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN See above item A

- C** **Discussion of methods to make the Board meetings run more quickly.**

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Postponed to June 13, 2011 Administrative Committee Meeting

- D** **Role of Outside City Alliances** (DeDe Audet not at meeting to speak to her concerns)

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Postponed to June 13, 2011 Administrative Committee Meeting

6. New Administrative Committee Business

- A** **Request from the LUPC Chair, Jake Kaufman, to extend application term for LUPC members from May 24 to June 14, 2011.**

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Move to Presidents Report in Proposed Board Agenda (item B below)

- B.** **Consideration and approval of May 24, 2011 Proposed Board Agenda**

7. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Discussion occurred regarding performance of board members.

8. Adjourn



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Board of Officers Meeting Agenda

Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium)

1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM

BOARD MEETINGS: The Venice Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. All are welcome to attend.

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.

POSTING: The agenda and non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of regular and special meetings may be viewed at Groundworks Coffee (671 Rose Ave Venice, CA 90291), Abbots Habit (1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice, CA 90291), the Venice Library (501 South Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291), Oakwood Recreation Center (767 California St. Venice, CA 90291), the VNC website (<http://www.venicenc.org>), or at the scheduled meeting. For a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC secretary at secretary@venicenc.org.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public is requested to fill out a "**Speaker Card**" to address the Board on any Old or New Business item on the agenda and the Treasurer's Report. Comments from the public on these agenda items will be heard only when that item is being considered. Comments from the public on other agenda matters or on matters not appearing on the agenda but within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, unless modified by the presiding officer of the Board.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations 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.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

3. **Approval of Outstanding Board Minutes**

April 26th, 2011 Draft Board Meeting Minutes

<http://venicenc.org/files/110426VNCBoardMeetingMinutes.pdf>

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

[5 min, no more than 2 minutes per person – no board member announcements permitted]

4. **LAPD Report (5 minutes):** Senior Lead Officer Peggy Thusing/Theresa Skinner, (310-622-3968; 25120@lapd.lacity.org)

5. **Consent Calendar**

[[Items may be removed from consent calendar at request of Board member or public]]

A. **Motion to Keep Name of Vera Davis McClendon the Same;** Mariana Aguilar
(mia5@cornell.edu)

See Exhibit F

MOTION: WHEREAS, Vera Davis McClendon was an important figure in the Venice community;

WHEREAS, the youth and family center located at 610 California Avenue was named after Vera Davis McClendon to commemorate her contributions to Venice;

WHEREAS, the Vera Davis McClendon Youth and Family Center may soon be housed in another city department or run by a private organization;

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports keeping the name of the Vera Davis McClendon Youth and Family Center the same, in perpetuity.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Consent Calendar of Board Agenda



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- B. Letter Thanking City Council for Santa Monica Airport Resolution; Amanda Seward on behalf of the Santa Monica Airport Committee (amandaseward@artvista.net) See Exhibit I**

MOTION: Approval of Letter from VNC thanking the Los Angeles City Council for unanimous vote to adopt the Santa Monica Airport Resolution - #11-0002-S28, which directed the City to include in its 2011-2012 Federal Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative action that would alter the departure path at Santa Monica Airport (SMO) to enhance safety and reduce air pollution and close the flight schools at SMO. The letter was drafted and approved by the VNC Santa Monica Airport Committee at its meeting April 27, 2011.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Consent Calendar of Board Agenda

- F. Adoption of a petition for use in generating support for the Santa Monica Airport issues; Laura Silagi on behalf of the Santa Monica Airport Committee (lrsilagi@gmail.com)**

MOTION: to support petition to:

- 1. Close flight Schools at Santa Monica Airport that use leaded fuel and fly constantly over our neighborhoods and pose a safety risk for those on the ground.**
- 2. Have all aircrafts departing the Airport fly to the North instead of the South, including any pattern operations.**
- 3. Stop the use of leaded fuel in propeller planes flying out of the Airport.**
- 4. Ban jets due to air pollution, noise and the threat of a catastrophic crash.**

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Consent Calendar of Board Agenda

- 6. Approval of Community Improvement Projects (60 Minutes); Carolyn Rios on behalf of the Neighborhood Committee (crlynrios@ca.rr.com) See Exhibit H**

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the rankings of and agrees to fund the 2011-2012 Community Improvement Projects as submitted by the Neighborhood Committee.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda

7. Old Business

[Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

- A. Bylaws Approval (20 minutes); Ivan Spiegel on behalf of the Bylaws Task Force (parliamentarian@venicenc.org) See Exhibit A**

MOTION: The VNC Board approves the revised bylaws as submitted by the Bylaws Task Force.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda

- B. Standing Rule regarding a records retention policy (5 Minutes); Ira Koslow on behalf of the Rules and Election Committee (ira.koslow@venicenc.org)**

MOTION: The VNC Board shall create the following Standing Rule:

The VNC will keep all VNC business records, including recorded minutes of meetings for a period of five years and, thereafter, all VNC business records may be destroyed. (Adopted unanimously by REC 03/02/2011)

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda



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- C **Non-Permitted Street Furniture Installation in the Coastal Zone (5 minutes)**; Carolyn Rios (Vice-President@Venicenc.org) on behalf of the Neighborhood Committee and Sherie Scheer (sherie.scheer@verizon.net) **See Exhibit B**

MOTION: The VNC believes that the Los Angeles Department of Public Works allowed CBS Outdoor to place street furniture west of Lincoln without a Coastal Development or City Permit and therefore moves that a letter be sent to The CA Coastal Commission and the City of Los Angeles requesting enforcement action in response to a violation of the Coastal Act.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Removed

- D **Update on Status of Vera Davis Center- Arturo Pina of CD 11 (10 minutes)**; (Arturo.Pina@lacity.org)

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda

8. LUPC Motions

[Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

- A. **Danny's at 23 Windward Ave. DIR-2000-3597-RV-PA-3 (20 minutes)**; Jake Kaufman, LUPC Chair on behalf of LUPC (Chair LUPC@VeniceNC.org) **See Exhibit C**

MOTION: Approve the project noting:

Pursuant to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, § 12.24 and per Condition #7 of Case No. DIR 2000-597-RV-PA2, the applicant is filing a Plan Approval application to show compliance with the conditions drafted in the aforementioned case and to remove the Revocation, and;

Pursuant to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, § 12.24 M, the applicant is requesting an expansion of hours of operation from 11:00 am – 2:00 am, daily, and;

Pursuant to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, § 12.24 W1, the applicant is requesting the sales and consumption of an existing Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control [Type 47] full line of alcoholic beverages license #372987 in conjunction with a 500 sq. ft. revocable patio for sidewalk dining, having 24 seats and hours of outdoor seating permitted from 11:00 am – 2:00am daily; as we do not feel this establishment should not have more restrictive conditions than its neighbors.

The applicant will conform to all parking requirements and make all efforts to provide bike racks.

MOTION MADE BY JAKE, SECONDED BY JAY
APPROVED: 5-0-1

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda as amended

- B. **Motion regarding removal of 38 trees on the four corners of Venice Blvd and Abbot Kinney**; Jim Murez Chair on behalf of LUPC (murez@murez.net) **See Exhibit D**

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council does not want the 38 trees removed or replaced and would like for DWP to implement options to A. reconfigure overhead wires or B. underground all services.

LUPC MOTION MADE BY JAKE KAUFMAN, SECONDED BY JIM MUREZ PASSED; 6-0

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Above placed on Board Agenda as amended and below moved to an exhibit



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Upon investigation by Jim Murez of Venice Neighborhood Council's Land Use and Planning Committee, it is apparent that DWP was not aware that the palm trees at the corner of Venice and Abbot Kinney were part of the Landscaping Plan adopted in 1994 and were intent on cutting them down without consulting the Venice Community.

When this history was brought to their attention, they began to argue that the trees pose a potential safety problem because they might interfere with overhead high voltage wires. They now suggest that there are only three options to deal with the situation which are: (A) overhead reconfiguration of the wires and conductors; (B) complete under-grounding of services; or (C) tree removal and replacement of different trees. They can leave them as is until there are funds available to implement one of the alternatives, which won't threaten the existing trees (overhead reconfiguration or under-grounding).

Simply put, the Venice Neighborhood Council does not want these 38 trees removed or replaced and would like for DWP to implement options A or B.

Further, experience suggests that replacements by DWP often result in eroding the existing friendly community character underlying the VNC Vision Goals, in particular: Walkability: Consider strategies that reduce the use of cars and that promote alternatives such as walking, skateboarding, biking & bike racks, circulation systems (trolleys), park & ride rather than additional parking, street-narrowing/sidewalk widening, walk/bike/skateboard lanes separated from traffic, easier neighborhood pedestrian access to commercial stores, etc.

9. **Treasurers Report (10 minutes)**; Hugh Harrison **See Exhibit E**
[Discussion and possible action to approve]
- A. Attached is the report on expenditures for the period March 22, 2011, through April 21, 2011.
- B. **MOTION: The Public Safety Committee has requested and the Budget Committee has approved the financial capacity to fund \$332.45 towards expenses for the 2011 disaster Expo.**
- C. **MOTION: The Venice Community Barbecue Committee has requested and the Budget Committee has approved the financial capacity to fund \$600 towards the preliminary expenses for the 2011 community barbecue.**
- D. **MOTION: To reallocate 2010-2011 VNC budget**
- E. **Funding of 2011 Neighborhood Council Congress**; Ivan Spiegel/Marlene Savage on behalf of the NC Congress Committee (ivan13147@verizon.net) **See Exhibit L**
- MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council agrees to be a sponsor of the 2011 Neighborhood Council Congress in the amount of \$250/\$500/\$1000.**

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

[5 min, no more than 2 minutes per person – no board member announcements permitted]



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10. New Business

[Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

- A. **Opposition to L.A. Park Foundation plan for park signage (10 Minutes)**; Gail Rogers
(gailee33@aol.com) **See Exhibit G**

MOTION: The VNC opposes the L.A. Park Foundation's plan to permit for-profit signage along Ocean Front Walk in Venice Beach in return for donations to the Foundation.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda as amended

- B. **Proposed Relocation of Venice Post Office**; Linda Lucks (President@Venicenc.org) **See Exhibit J**

Whereas the Post US Postal Service is asking for Public Comment

Whereas the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is proposing the relocation of the Venice Post Office, 1601 Main St., approximately 400 feet to the Venice Carrier Annex, 313 Grand Blvd. There would be no change in Post Office Box holders' address or ZIP Code, nor would this proposed relocation impact mail delivery to residents and businesses in any way.

Whereas the reason behind this plan is the alignment of USPS workforce and infrastructure with a 20 percent drop in total mail volume over the past three years brought about by the diversion to electronic communication and business transactions. USPS does not receive tax dollars for its operations or facilities, but covers costs through the revenue received from the sale of its products and services.

Whereas The Postal Service plans include selling the building at 1601 Main St. Venice, CA 90291 USPS

Therefore, The Venice Neighborhood Council will appoint Representatives of our council to work closely with the USPO and California State Historic Preservation Officer through the process to ensure that the Historic characteristics of the building and the mural contained within are maintained. These historic aspects are contained in covenants that will run with the property and would be conveyed to the buyer.

MOTION: To participate in relocation plans of the Venice Post office to the Postal Annex by requesting that the USPO and The CA State Historic Preservation Officer continue to include representatives of the VNC, the community, Congressional Office, County Supervisor, City Council, Venice Historical Society and Suzanne Zada, art executor of the Edward Biberman mural estate through the planning process to insure that the historic characteristics of the building and the mural contained within are maintained. These historic aspects are contained in covenants that will run with the property and would be conveyed to any proposed buyers.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN postponed due to appointment of VNC Task Force

- C. **Creation of a Public Works Ad Hoc Committee (or Task Force)**; Linda Lucks
(President@Venicenc.org)

MOTION: Venice NC shall establish an ad hoc committee on Public Works to collect and review potholes in Venice. The committee (or task force) will be tasked with recruiting volunteers, creating reporting procedures, collecting data and tracking outcomes with quarterly reports to the board.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Referred to Neighborhood Committee



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D. Cell Tower Art; James Murez (murez@venice.net)

MOTION: Present to the Board the concept of creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) to create a colocation cell tower within the public right-of-way. Where such a cell tower would be designed as public art and would generate revenue for the City and where the process of site location and artist design would be approved by the VNC.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Referred to Arts Committee

E. Pilot Program to Protect, Preserve, and promote Mural Art; Clark McCutchen on behalf of the Arts Committee (clark.mccutchenlaw@veniceNC.org) See Exhibit K

MOTION: MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, in coordination with the Department of Cultural Heritage and the City Attorney's Office, prepare and present an ordinance to define murals as something other than signs and establish a citywide program for permitting murals in the City of Los Angeles.

ADCOM ACTION TAKEN Placed on Board Agenda as amended

11. Governmental Reports (15 min)

- **U.S. Representative Office**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Kate Anderson (310-643-3636; kate.anderson@mail.house.gov)
- **State Assemblyperson** Betsy Butler, representative Bobbie Buescher
- **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**; Joseph Hari, West Area Representative (213)308-9212; Joseph.Hari@lacity.org)
- **City Councilperson Bill Rosendahl**: Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy (310-568-8772; cecilia.castillo@lacity.org); Arturo Pina, District Director, Arturo.Pina@lacity.org
- **Westside Regional Alliance of Councils**: Mike Newhouse, President (mnewhouse@newhouseseroussi.com); Alternate, Carolyn Rios;
- **PlancheckLA**: VNC Rep Challis Macpherson (Challis.Macpherson@Verizon.net)
- **LA Dept of Water & Power/Memoranda of Understanding**: VNC Rep DeDe Audet (daudet@ca.rr.com)
- **LAPD Community Police Advisory Board**: Nicolas Hippisley-Coxe, (hippislej@earthlink.net)
- **LAAlliance of NC's Representative**: Ivan Spiegel, (ivan.Spiegel@venicenc.org)

12. Scheduled Announcements (5 Minutes)

- **President**: Linda Lucks (president@venicenc.org)
Nominations open one seat on the VNC Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) extend to application term for LUPC members from May 24 to June 21, 2011. <http://venicenc.org/Apply> (Application Online)
- **Vice President**: Carolyn Rios (VP@venicenc.org)
- **Update from Paul Backstrom (10 minutes)**; Council District 11 Representative on the LA Department of Transportation's plan to install bike lanes from the Santa Monica border to the Windward Circle. Postponed at request of Paul Backstrom to be sent to committee
- **Clean Water (Wastewater) Program (10 minutes)**; Joann Moss (joann.moss@lacity.org)
The Bureau of Sanitation would like to attend one of your upcoming meetings to share with your membership how the Clean Water (Wastewater) Program is working for you, discuss how we hope to do more, and receive your input and comments.

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

[5 min, no more than 2 minutes per person – no board member announcements permitted]



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13. **Board Member Comments on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction.**
[10 min, no more than 1 minute per person]
14. **Adjourn** (approx. 10:00PM)

List of Venice Neighborhood Council Committees & Chairs – Volunteers Welcome

Administrative	Linda Lucks
Neighborhood	Carolyn Rios
Outreach	Marc Saltzberg
Budget	Hugh Harrison
Ocean Front Walk	Ivonne Guzman
Arts	Clark McCutchen, Daffodil Tyminski
Education	Peter Thottam
Environment	Barbara Lonsdale
Public Safety	Nicolas Hippisley-Coxe
Land Use and Planning	Jake Kaufman
Rules & Elections	Ira Koslow
Santa Monica Airport	Laura Silagi & Amanda Seward
Visitor Impact	Amanda Seward