



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
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## Minutes of the March 4, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

**Voting Members (Present):** Joe Murphy (VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair), Paul Davis (parent and architect), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Joelle Dumas (Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), **(Absent):** Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Medina Goodman (parent and creative industries placement executive), Connie Clotworthy (Worthy Beyond Purpose);

**Community Members:** Ron Harris II (Safe Place for Youth), Rachel Bindman (Los Angeles Public Library, Venice Branch Mgr), Sandy Bliefer (artist and artist housing advocate), Nisa Kove (VNC Board Candidate), Ivan Spiegel (VNC Parliamentarian & VNC Election Committee Chair)

**Note:** the following minutes are a distillation of agenda item discussions and free-form comments from the meeting, and also feature points of discussion introduced by attendees in follow-up correspondence.

**5:30 Call to Order.** Feb 11, 2019 **Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Minutes** and Mar 4, 2019 **Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Agenda** adopted 6-0-0.

**5:31 Introduction of Invited Guest Ivan Spiegel-VNC Parliamentaria & VNC Election Chair**  
**Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the agenda: None**  
**Consideration and possible adoption of motion(s): None**

**5:35 Discussion:**

- **Ivan Spiegel Presentation**

Ivan was invited to give the group information on how to run for the Board, nominations due by March 19th. Three months after that will be the election.

Potential board candidates must be a Venice stakeholder determined by one or more of the following requirements:

1. Live in Venice
2. Own property in Venice
3. Work in Venice

An additional stipulation allows young people 16 and over to run for a seat, although they are not allowed to vote on financial matters, and 70-80% of voting is related to financial issues.

Discussion about proposing a Designated Seat for someone 16-18 in the future. There is an example of this on the LAUSD Board - an "honoree" position. The young person is allowed to offer feedback but does not vote.

Discussion ensued until Joe stated that he "sensed consensus" about finding placement for young people in town government. Interest stated in teaching young people to canvas and campaign. Young folks have a great opportunity to campaign creatively through social media and other methods. The most important initial challenge is to determine the target audience. SPY and Venice High School were suggested as sites to potentially vet such an "honoree"

A voter guide was already hand delivered to all Venice homes. Previously there were provisions made to design a geographical overlay created to include Walgrove Elementary, Mark Twain, and Venice High School.



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- **Administration** (Joelle Dumas, Paul Davis, Jasmine Carey, Joe Murphy)

1. Paul: update on the work of **Youth Internship** subcommittee and discussion:

For internship positions:

Gwendoline ~ we will check in with her about her proposal to the Venice High School.

Ron ~ we will check in with him about potential candidates through SPY

Much discussion about the legality and liability concerns for the internship positions. Inquiry needs to be made to the City Attorney.

The question was raised ~ would it be prudent to consider refinement of our proposal for an additional month? Also if the parameters do not fit the VNC, would it be useful to plan a collaborative effort with the Chamber of Commerce instead? We could potentially still be stewarded but avoid any conflict with the Brown Act and the bureaucracy of the council. We decided to still go forward with the current schedule, but to be conscious to be prepared for Board inquiries/concerns. Joe says that it is vital to have the credibility in order to push the process forward with Venice H.S. and potential employers.

Keep the Chairman of the Council of Education in the loop about our plan.

Work permits ~ are they applicable for us?

We had a check-in from the Internship Sub-committee about their current progress.

Sandy reported about Cindy Dubin's program ~ she is a teacher in the Beverly Hills system. There is a loophole wherein young people can be paid for "work experience" rather than specific employment. Federal grants provide insurance for some such programs. Cindy Dubin has a job fair on March 13th and will check in with us after that.

We need to establish ourselves as a credible source/structure to appeal to employers. We suggest that the students be recommended by faculty at Venice High School and carefully selected and vetted at SPY as well. There would need to be an intensive interview process.

Anecdotal discussion about internships.

2. Joe: Limitations on individual time.

Announcement made about the members of the Admin team and channels of communication ~all emails will go to the whole team.

- **Topics for future meetings**

Sandy referenced the Venice art walk -that it previously had docents. She will check on this. Animo - an additional local high school who Joelle has a relationship with. Possible alternative. Board connections ~ Nisa has some. Went over the list of previously generated previously ~ asked for input from folks who had not contributed yet. Moonwater Farms program ~ check it out. Ron reported that SPY has created the SPY squad, a feedback system for what youth truly need. John plugged his church's musical ~ Masters in the Chapel. Go to [FLVenice.org](http://FLVenice.org) for information. Narrow committee's focus to list of selected specific projects.

7:30

**Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, April 1, 2019 at the Venice Library.**