



Venice Neighborhood Council



PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015

Minutes of the February 1, 2021 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

Voting Members (Present): Joe Murphy (VNC DFC CoChair), Joelle Dumas (VNC DFC CoChair, Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church, Mehrmoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Paul Davis (VNC DFC CoChair, parent and architect), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring) ; **(Absent):** Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area). **Community Members:** Haley Beyer, Helen Fallon.

Note: the minutes below in small blue bold print 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 - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda* **Adopted unanimously.**

5:31 *Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda*

5:35 *Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion:*

Whereas, per information in <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-12/los-angeles-tiny-homes-homeless? amp=true>:

- Under pressure from a federal lawsuit to get homeless people off the streets, the City of Los Angeles is implementing ~64-square-foot **Tiny Homes** projects scheduled to open in April, 2021 at an average cost of ~\$82,000 per home while similar projects in Riverside, California and other state jurisdictions (Seattle, Washington in particular) with similar shared facilities (bathrooms, showers) have been built at an average cost of less than \$12,000 per home - projects which encourage a sense of community often resulting in self-governance of what's felt to be a small albeit temporary 'village' with residents performing chores; and
- The sense of ownership and security provided by **Tiny Homes** contributes to the mental stability homeless people need to move forward and therefore appeals to and attracts homeless people who feel otherwise alienated by other programs (such as shelters lined with beds in large areas shared with unfamiliar people) while waiting for the construction of the permanent housing upon which such temporary housing projects (including **Bridge Housing**) are legally long-term dependent;

Be it therefore resolved that the VNC Board is requested to adopt the following motion to include the above Whereas clause:

The VNC Board supports the concept of Tiny Homes projects and, in a letter to Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, Council District 11, with copies to other Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils, requests that he:

- **Research and take whatever steps are necessary to enable the City of Los Angeles to emulate the Riverside, California and Seattle, Washington examples in providing Tiny Homes to homeless people - including Seattle's citizen-driven model (non-profit enterprises with citizen participation) - to the benefit of the Los Angeles Venice Neighborhood Council area as well as to the benefit of all other Neighborhood Council areas in the City of Los Angeles; and**
- **Explore the impact of the implementation of such a program on the current federal decisions which permit homeless people to reside sleep with their belongings on neighborhood sidewalks and streets, whether or not in vehicles or tents or their equivalents.**

Motion to amend to replace reside with sleep and the motion as amended were adopted unanimously.

6:30 *Initiative Updates & Presentations & Discussion as reflected in the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes.*

7:00 *Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, March 1, 2021*