



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 December 2, 2019 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), Paul Davis (VNC DFC CoChair, parent and architect), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring); **(Absent):** Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area).

Community Members: Liliana Alvarez Hernandez (Outreach Strategist for [Connections for Children](#)), Araceli Coronado ([Connections for Children](#)).

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**

- **Liliana Alvarez Hernandez, Outreach Strategist for [Connections for Children](#), described the work of her non-profit organization and explored with us how it might integrate with our efforts**

5:45 **Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s):**

- **Reconsideration of motion supporting [Venice Moms](#) to comply with VNC recusal requirements:**

Whereas, the DFC's [Focus on Children](#) Committee supports the efforts of Regan Kibbee, moderator of the Venice Moms email group (at [Groups.io](#)) and creator of the [www.VeniceMoms.com](#) website, to provide parents a forum to connect with one another in parenting children: It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

The VNC Board is supportive of Venice Moms, a not-for-profit online community for local parents to share information, parenting support, and opportunities to connect, since 2002.

Adopted unanimously.

5:50 **Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion**

5:50 **▪ Initiative Updates & Presentations**

- **Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program**
A revised program brochure was distributed for review. John Palka and Paul Davis will share it with intern host candidates in the coming weeks. The resulting host list is to be provided to Venice High School staff by January 12, 2020.
- **Joelle Dumas: Valentine's Day Children's Parade – to inundate our streets with love**
- **Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Pedestrians**
Grassroots political activist advice on achieving comparable walkability success elsewhere in Venice
Stewart Oscars, the grassroots activist who convinced the city to install the flashing light crosswalk on Abbot Kinney near the French Market Café, shared his experiences in achieving this result.

6:30 **▪ Discussion Topics/Questions – building on [Needs Assessment Survey](#)**

The remainder of the agenda was postponed until the January 6, 2020 meeting.

- ✚ **What do you think should be the priorities of this committee?**
- ✚ **Homelessness is a major and central issue in our community. Is there something constructive that this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?**
- ✚ **The [Venice Neighborhood Council](#) Bylaws enable young adults to become elected members of its Board of Officers and voting members/ chairs of its various committees – and to create new committees – and to be otherwise involved in its various functions and government-related activities. To date, very little has been done to encourage such involvement. Is this something this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?**
- ✚ **[Worthy Beyond Purpose](#) is dedicated to providing children with mindfulness experiences. Should we take time to explore in greater depth what this entails and whether this committee is uniquely-positioned to, in a constructive manner, enable broader community use of this model?**
- ✚ **Joelle's curb cuts & backpacks ideas**

6:50 **▪ Contribution of Topics/Questions &/or Motions for next meeting agenda**

7:00 **Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Venice Library**