



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



Joint meeting of Homeless ness Committee and Board of Directors – Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday 5/3/22 Meeting Time: 7:00pm
Meeting Location: Webinar online zoom meeting 84608412246
Contact: Frank.Murphy@VeniceNC.org

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1. 7:00 pm – Call to Order

2. Roll Call

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|----------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Frank Murphy (chair) | P | Jody Mortimer | |
| Brian Ulf | P | | |
| Colette Bailey | | | |
| Pat Raphael | P | | |
| Liz Wright | P | | |
| Vicki Halliday | P | Jim Murez (ex-officio) | |
| Stan Muhammad | P | | |

3. Review, Comment and Adopt Minutes from April 5, 2022 meeting

<https://www.venicenc.org/ncfiles/viewCommitteeFile/25925>

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Frank Murphy (chair) | Y |
| Brian Ulf | Y |
| Colette Bailey | |
| Pat Raphael | Y |
| Liz Wright | Y |
| Vicki Halliday | Y |
| Stan Muhammad | Y |

(YES, NO, ABSTAIN) (6,0,0)

4. Chair Report (5 minutes).
5. PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agenda items related to Homelessness Committee only.
6. Homeless Round Table – A panel of current or recent homeless people focusing on their story and their concern's, need's and want's when homeless. Juan Perez and others as available will join with Stan Muhammad as moderator. Questions from the public please submit prior to Monday 1/25/22 AM to Vicki Halliday at communications@venicenc.org Presentation (20 minutes). Committee Q&A (15 minutes).

A gentleman named Kim, whose family has lived in Venice for generations, was kind enough to share some of his life experiences with the community. He was doing fine until his wife was stabbed to death. Then he went on a downward spiral and ultimately became homeless.

That has been his status for about 14 years. He does have some relatives in the area, so storage and showers are available. Off and on he has had case workers and assistance, but things did not always work out.

He had assistance to get all the documents you need in order to get a job (birth certificate, Social Security Card, etc. After he got them all, they were stolen, and he had to go through the entire process again.

He rented a vehicle to live in, and it was towed away the next day.

He was accepted into a shared housing program. It was not the house rules that were too restrictive, but how the house personnel treated him. Kim found the management authoritative instead of compassionate, and thought he was treated like someone who has never been taught the basic responsibilities that go with living in a home.

Kim pointed out that as a homeless person, he obeyed all the rules. If the rule said you had to move by a certain time, he moved. Do not spread out, he did not spread out. Etc.

Several times he was acknowledged to be a candidate for housing, but always someone else needed it worse. He concluded that if you are not a BIG problem, it is easy to fall through the cracks.

He definitely wants to live in a house. In the future, he would like to devote his time to helping those who are homeless.

During the comment period following Kim's conversation with the committee, a caller volunteered to be his mentor and guide him to the right organizations that could help him and make sure they did.

7. Public comment on Homeless Round Table presentation. 1 minute.

New Business

8. **Item for discussion and Possible Action**

Motion – 1

Submitted by Nick Antonicello

WHEREAS, Centennial Park is a median public space located on South Venice Boulevard due east of the Venice Free Public Library, and

WHEREAS, Centennial Park by city ordinance should be exempt from overnight camping, and

WHEREAS, This location has been overrun with hundreds of encampments, structures and stationary vehicles that have taken this neighborhood by hostage, and

WHEREAS, Open drug use and criminal activity is rampant with fights daily among the transients that occupy this public space, and

WHEREAS, Tenants and homeowners alike are becoming terrorized by the lack of public safety protections from any city or county law enforcement, and

WHEREAS. The encampments have become enabled and encouraged by numerous not-for-profit, homeless bureaucrats as well as CD-11, and

WHEREAS, The current municipal ordinance(s) are being ignored with no police presence despite the fact now hundreds of individuals occupy this space on a daily basis, and

WHEREAS, this neighborhood council has received at least three (3) prior motions that have been ignored, never discussed as the problem at Centennial Park is increasing by the day and becoming all the more dangerous, and

WHEREAS, the inaction of this neighborhood council is disturbing despite the impact on this community, no different; if not worse then what occurred at Oceanfront Walk,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Venice Neighborhood Council go on the record and support the immediate sweep and displacement of all individuals who are illegally encamped at Centennial Park and that immediate action be taken to dissolve this violation of public space by transients who for the most part, if not all inhabitants are not residents, or have never been previously domiciled in the neighborhood of Venice, and that a letter be sent to Mayor Eric Garcetti, CD-11 and LAPD Chief Moore seeking relief from his department to put together an evacuation plan that disperses all illegal occupation of this public space within 60 days.

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|-----------------------------|----------|
| Frank Murphy (chair) | |
| Brian Ulf | |
| Colette Bailey | |
| Pat Raphael | |
| Liz Wright | S |
| Vicki Halliday | M |
| Stan Muhammad | |

AMENDED TO:

Whereas the environment surrounding the Venice Library has experienced significant increase in crime. Many local residents live in fear and are afraid to visit the library. The library has reduced its hours and cancelled programs for children.

Motion:

The Venice Neighborhood Council insists that the City of LA, within 30 days, come up with a plan, and within 30 days implement the plan to offer housing and services to those in the Centennial Park encampment and dismantle it. Also, enforce the library property regulations.

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|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Frank Murphy (chair) | MY |
| Brian Ulf | Y |
| Colette Bailey | Y |
| Pat Raphael | N |
| Liz Wright | Y |
| Vicki Halliday | SY |
| Stan Muhammad | Y |

M=moved, S=seconded (yes,no,abstain) (6,1,0)

9. Committee Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration
10. ADJOURN