

(DRAFT)
Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

Board of Officers Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2005

1. Meeting was called to order by DeDe Audet at 7:40 pm
2. **Role Call** by Phil Raider, 18 present including DeDe Audet, Colette Bailey, LJ Carusone, CJ Cole, Sylviane Dungan, Peter Force, Yolanda Gonzalez, Michael King, Linda Lucks, Challis Macpherson, Ingrid Mueller, Richard Myers, Naomi Nightingale, Dianna Pollard, Phil Raider, Rebecca Tafoya, Mindy Taylor-Ross, Absent: Stan Muhammad, Brett Miller, Kelley S. Willis

3. Announcements

Richard Myers reminded folks to sign up to get on the email list.
Naomi Nightingale solicited volunteers for the Events Committee.
DeDe Audet reminded the Board members that they are required to serve on one of the standing committees.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 20th and 25th Board meetings were approved, as circulated, without correction.

4. Financial Report

CJ Cole reported that we have received our funding in the amount of \$12,500. Fixed assets, with one exception have all been located. We have \$6,250 available in demand warrants, \$6,112 on our prepaid card and \$89,749 in unallocated funds.

5. Officers Reports

LJ Carusone, regarding a request from the 10-25-05 Board meeting for a letter concerning Bill Christopher an a possible a conflict of interest, Mr. Christopher had earlier stated that he would recuse himself from any GRVNC decisions that would come before him as a BONC Commissioner so there is no conflict so long as he follows that course

DeDe Audet announced that a PO Box has been opened, PO Box 550, Venice, CA, 90294. DeDe kept one key for herself and gave the 2nd key to Richard Myers.

LJ Carusone has received a letter form DONE requesting a special meeting to discuss the by-laws revisions which they have now reviewed.

Move that we add, under New Business on the agenda, an item in regards to holding a special GRVNC Board meeting, with DONE, to address the by-laws.

Moved by LJ Carusone 2nd by unidentified member

Phil Raider questioned whether or not this was allowed as the item was not on the agenda.

Motion carried 17-0-0

6. Public Comment

David Ewing, Lincoln Place development is going on behind closed doors. AIMCO has managed to keep it private. Tenants are being used to hijack the planning process, AIMCO has violated their agreements with The City and now want more than The City agreed to without going through a public process. They were demanding that The Mayor and Bill Rosendahl support the project without seeing it.

Jay Goodfader, family owns the Sidewalk Café, has lived in Venice his whole life, came to comment on the 20 year saga of trying to remove commercial vending on the west side of OFW while still protecting artists and entertainers. We had an imperfect permit process that kept a lot of illegal vending off but they found an unconstitutional aspect and put a moratorium on until they write a new law. Since then it's been utter chaos. Vendors have forced out many artists and entertainers. The permit process is there, but not being enforced. We need the City to approve the language that they have already shown the community as soon as possible.

Steve Heuman, works for Sidewalk Enterprises, there is no longer a law like there has been for ages, controlling commercial sales on the west side of OFW, so anyone can sell anything on the west side. Can you move expeditiously on this issue. There is a completely lawless situation out there. Without the law you have people taking advantage, intimidating others, taking spaces by force, holding spaces for money. While the law was in effect there was a reduction in crime, that crime reduction is gone, it's worse than ever. There is a tough element out there that likes the lawless situation. The artists, entertainers and free speaker's are being forced out, and finally business owners, tax payers are being killed by the vendors. The situation is awful.

Barbara Duffy, At this time it's worse than ever, we have people coming out from down town and selling directly across from the merchants, we can't compete with them, they don't pay any taxes, they don't pay rent, they leave their trash, it's insulting. I don't know how much longer a lot of the merchants can last, their not signing 5 year leases only one year because they don't know how long they can last. There are mom and pop stores. You're not going to become wealth there, but its fun to work at the beach. This can't go on one much longer.

Laura Silagi, take a serious look at Lincoln place, this is largest mass eviction on LA history, what happens top this property, having in the hands of AIMCO is whatever, they don't want to deal with the public process, we need to make them listen to us. Ann Giani wants GRVNC and all standing committees to look at the way rules for meeting are being followed. For example when a development is before LUPC the sequence should be the developer presents, followed by public comment and then the committee

should have an informed discussion before the motion is made. This sequence allows for the motion to grow out of the information rather than the discussion being prematurely framed by the motion, She request that the bylaws committee look at this and if this isn't allowed by the current bylaws that that be changed. Prior to this GRVNC Board that there was always discussion before a motion was made and this is how LA City operates.

Noel Weiss, education, innovation and reform, suggest the GRVNC form an education committee. Given the focus on innovation and reform The Mayor's group, LA Unified and The City talking about education now. The role of NC's in the community, what could be more important, and that NC's are going to be reviewed by mandate of the charter come next June, that this could be a very important aspect because we're talking about the role of NC's in the community, Education is at the center now and where we're going and is advocating for that and looks forward to being involved in that effort.

Lori Leboy, we don't have a good process in place for selecting public art. Gets all the emails from GRVNC and is on The Venice Arts Council and still all of a sudden there's been a proposal for this or that. We need to one art council and be committed to going through a public process where there are competitions. Because there is such a large per capital percentage of artists in Venice we should look to Hollywood as an example to have rotating exhibits whereby we don't select a work that's going to stay in place. We're a small city with a few permanent locations, not to select something that will stay always but have something up for a year and then we'll have a new selection process. If there is going to be public art a call should go out to everyone and we have least several month to put a presentation together. Bring public out from behind closed doors.

George Grimaldi, construction at Abbot Kinney & Alhambra is having a terrible effect on the neighbors alleys are blocked, roads being destroyed damage to vehicles. The builder responds that they have the right to do this because they have a permit. 4 story going up when others can't get a permit. They told the city they were going to live there and now sale is rumored. Parking is a problem. Construction workers are rude and belligerent.

Carol Berman, supports Lincoln Place tenants, not enough low income housing. Resident on OFW for 40 years. She has complained to Rec. & Parks, Council Office and LAPD. She wants a ban on amplified music on OFW.

7. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee, DeDe Audet reports the ExecCom has appointed the following committee chairs:

LJ Carusone, Bylaws Committee
Richard Myers, Rules & Elections
David Moring, Disaster Preparedness
Conservation Committee, Carolyn Ward

Move that we accept all the committee chair appointments.

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd Phil Raider

Motion carried 15-0-1

Land Use & Planning Committee, Challis Macpherson reports that the committee forwards the following motions to the Board For consideration:

Move that The LUPC formally request that The GRVNC Board request an immediate building moratorium on projects along the Lincoln Blvd. corridor. Further move that the moratorium is to remain in effect pending the development of an Interim Control Ordinance for the Lincoln Corridor to be followed by the development of a Lincoln Corridor Specific Plan.

Moved by Challis Macpherson 2nd by Mindy Taylor-Ross

Linda Lucks, supports motion but thinks that the credibility of the board will suffer if it passes, "it's unrealistic" doesn't think it's doable.

Phil Raider, chances of getting a moratorium in place are slim but made the motion in order to send a message that we want it all development stopped until a comprehensive plan is in place.

Michael King, voted against motion in committee, wants to fight the projects on a case by case basis. Doesn't feel there is support in the community.

Yolanda Gonzalez, sad what's happening to our city, The Housing Authority needs to be held accountable for the problem. She recommends that they all be fired. We need to hold all city services accountable.

Mindy Taylor-Ross, Bill Rosendahl supports a moratorium on building to get a handle on it. Wants a year to see what's in the pipe line, need to deal with Playa Vista, phase 2.

LJ Carusone, concerned that there is no time line. Recognizes and favors The CDO but wants more specifics.

Ingrid Mueller, thinks the process would take about a year to do accurate, appropriate surveys. Wants to include an area a block or two east and west of Lincoln blvd.

Ivan Spiegel, explained that there is no amending this motion as it came out of a committee, this will be a straight up or down vote.

Linda Lucks, wants to know if this is tied into an ICO which she completely supports?

Phil Raider, the LUPC chair circulated a draft of the motion, it should be noted that he motion actually does not say "major" projects, just "projects." I didn't include major because I didn't want to define major and wanted a general motion that all could agree on. No time line in the motion only the steps.

Naomi Nightingale, wants to understand that Bill Rosendahl is in favor a moratorium.

Mindy Taylor-Ross, yes, Bill Rosendahl told The Venice Community Coalition that he would favor a moratorium.

Naomi Nightingale, GRVNC is an advisory body, Thinks the motion should be to support Rosendahl efforts rather than initiate some type of action. Wants to follow the council office and not lead it.

CJ Cole, west side of the street already has a specific plan are we going to put a moratorium on that side as well?

Phil Raider, yes the motion is about the Lincoln corridor not just Lincoln Blvd, could cover several blocks east and west.

Michael King, wants more specifics, like definition of corridor and a time limit. An ICO will take a year, separate from the CDO. Says Rosendahl is using this as a campaign issue. Wants to make the Council office perform as part of the process.

Sylviane Dungan, could say that what we don't want is an increase in square footage built? Could we agree to allow the beautification of what is now on Lincoln? Problem is we all don't want to increase in square footage and traffic want to control it.

Richard Myers, will this apply to projects already submitted will it be retro active or apply to new projects?

Challis Macpherson, depends on the conditions of the ICO, could be crafted any way that is negotiated.

Collette Bailey, feels the motion is half-baked and needs more explanation. Wants to move that we send this back to committee.

Ingrid Mueller, we are an advisory board and having heard Bill Rosendahl tell The VCC we would support a moratorium, she knows he would appreciate the motion.

Move that the motion under consideration be tabled and referred back to the LUPC for further definition.

Moved by Collette Bailey, 2nd Richard Myers

Phil Raider, it's a simple motion made in general advisory terms. We are an advisory board not legislators, send a message don't table the motion vote to pass it.

Motion failed, 8-9-0

Voting YES, Colette Bailey, LJ Carusone, CJ Cole, Sylviane Dungan, Michael King, Linda Lucks, Richard Myers, Dianna Pollard.

Voting NO, DeDe Audet, Peter Force, Yolanda Gonzalez, Challis Macpherson, Ingrid Mueller, Naomi Nightingale, Phil Raider, Rebecca Tafoya, Mindy Taylor-Ross.

LUPC Motion under consideration failed 6-8-2

Voting YES, Peter Force, Challis Macpherson, Ingrid Mueller, Phil Raider, Rebecca Tafoya, Mindy Taylor-Ross.

Voting NO, Colette Bailey, LJ Carusone, CJ Cole, Sylviane Dungan, Yolanda Gonzalez, Michael King, Naomi Nightingale, Dianna Pollard, Phil Raider,

Abstaining, Richard Myers, Linda Lucks

Motion that LUPC recommend to GRVNC that development team be required to open a dialogue with the people of Venice and have at least 2 more well noticed public meetings in Venice.

Moved by Challis Macpherson, 2nd by unknown

Motion carried 15-0-1

Move that the LUPC recommend The Board of The GRVNC write a letter expressing full support for The Venice Community Coalition efforts to develop a Community Design Overlay for Lincoln Boulevard. Further move that the LUPC make itself available as a facilitator in The CDO development process.

Moved by Challis Macpherson, 2nd by unknown

Motion carried 15-0-1

Move that the LUPC recommend The Board of The GRVNC disapprove the request of Verizon Wireless for a variance from the Q conditions and from The Venice Specific Plan. Further move that any antenna constructed be visually screened from the surrounding area.

Moved by Challis Macpherson, 2nd by unknown

Motion carried 15-0-1

Budget Finance & Fundraising Committee CJ Cole provided copies of the 2nd and 3rd quarter draft budgets as well as the modified budgets for the same period. She indicated that she would be developing policy for establishing a checking account.

Move that all expenditures exceeding \$300.00 need to be approved in advance by the GRVNC Board at a publicly noticed meeting. Further move that all expenditures (regardless of amount) need to be included in the GRVNC Board-Approved Itemized Allocated Budget. Further move that the GRVNC purchasing policy shall include that first priority be given to Venice vendors and that 3 competitive bids be required for expenditures over \$300.00.

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd by Michael King

Phil Raider, the \$300.00 threshold seems too low.

Motion carried 14-2-0

Move that the 2nd and 3rd Quarter Draft Itemized Allocated Budgets be approved as compiled. Further move that the Board approve the inclusion of the Communications & Outreach Committee Budget Allocation Request into the Draft Itemized Allocated Budget.

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd by Richard Myers

CJ Cole, concerned that there was no discussion of the CDO and Arts Council items already included in the budget.

Naomi Nightingale, the expenditures for the CDO and The Venice Arts Council will be discussed under new business so the Budgets committees concerns about lack of public discussion would be addressed at that time.

Move that the motion be tabled until after consideration of new business.

Moved by CJ Cole,

Motion to table carried 16-0-0

Move that The Board approves the outstanding commitments made by the 2004-2005 GRVNC Board to Cafe 50's for Thanksgiving Dinners, \$600.00 paid by Don Geagon, and to SPARC for a Holiday Presentation, \$1000.00, subject to the receipt of original invoices, and approval by the current Board and DONE.

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd by Richard Myers

Don Geagon, here to testify that he used his funds with the understanding that he would be reimbursed and would like to be paid.

Suzanne Thompson, concerned about what she believes is editorializing on the part of the treasurer in the Budget Committee reports. She has the original from Café 50's and for the SPARC event.

Martha Ramirez & Paulina Sahagun, explained the Pastorella event and displayed several of the student made props used at the pageant.

Motion carried 16-0-0

Naomi Nightingale assumes the Chair as DeDe Audet steps down to participate in the Public Comment

Government relations Committee, LJ Carusone reports that there is nothing to report.

DeDe Audet, was very disappointed that The ExecCom voted to hurt somebody, for no reason....I lived through the 50's with Joseph McCarthy. He aired his suspicions that somebody might have done something wrong. I will not be a part to degrading any person without evidence.

Marta Evry, I just want to clarify that no letter is not be sent about Bill Christopher

David Buchanan, I stand with the overwhelming majority of people and am totally opposed to the MTA/RAD project. I think it's bad on a number of counts and don't think they can do enough fixing to make it right, however, there is an issue about this board being effective. This letter was a, probably premature and b, certainly misplaced. There is no conflict of interest in Bill Christopher representing RAD. If you send out those kinds of letters you're just writing stupid across your forehead.

DeDe resumed her position as Chair

Disaster Preparedness Committee, Colette Bailey circulated the proposed mission statement, The Committee had it's 1st meeting on 10/22/05. They finalized the mission statement and 7 additional goals. The next meeting is 12/1/05 and all are welcome. There will be an announcement. They are in touch with both LAPD & LAFD.

Ingrid Mueller, there is some new research about tsunami's and wanted to point that out to the committee.

David Buchanan, we need to be prepared for bird and avian flu given the duck population in the canals and in the triangle. This should be a topic for the committee to address.

8. **Special Reports**, none
9. **Consent Calendar**, empty
10. **Old Business**
11. **New Business**

A. Nominations & election for District 2 Representative

DeDe Audet, the district 2 representative ha resigned, the board must nominate another person. The person nominated and selected by the board can take the seat but not vote until confirmed by an election of the people.

Susan Papadakis, I was a candidate in the election I got involved in planning issues in my neighborhood, learned about The VSP, my interests are in artists rights, VSP, previous chair of The Ocean Park Community Organization, I was with 4 votes of being elected in September and feel I would be the logical choice.

Jim Murez, lived in Venice 20 years, started the farmers market, planted 1400 trees in Venice using 4000 volunteers, have two kids in Venice High, have sat on several different boards and I appreciate your time.

Linda Lucks, both candidates are very interesting, I've know Jim for years, he was a write in candidate and has been involved in developments issues for years, and has a lot of history here.

Nominations were opened by the Chair,

Linda Lucks, nominates Jim Murez

Challis Macpherson, nominates Susan Papadakis

Move that the nominations be closed

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd by Phil Raider

Ivan Spiegel explained the bylaws rules concerning the replacement of a board member and the election to take place at the town hall meeting.

A written ballot election resulted in the election of Susan Papadakis to fill the vacant seat for District 2. The vote was 10 to 6

B. Envision Arts in Venice sponsorship with Venice Arts Council

DeDe Audet, the ExecCom met and received a proposal to co-sponsor the event.

Naomi Nightingale, the Events Committee met and reviewed the proposal from The VAC and their request that The GRVNC support the event. They are requesting up to \$1,000.00 to cover printing and other expenses. The community benefits are the outreach and bring together the community. The Events Committee recommends the support of the events and the request for the funding.

Move that The Board approve sponsorship of The Venice Arts Council Event which will be held January 7, 2005 with a budget of \$1,000.00.

Moved by Naomi Nightingale, 2nd by unknown female

Emily Winters, for the record we are the Venice Art Council, the focus has expanded the event is now The Venice Art & Culture Workshop, we are patterning ourselves after the Envision Venice workshop. We are wanting to get the artists in the community plugged into what's available and to have that kind of communication and to focus on the guidelines and make sure they are followed. We want to follow up on the public art component of development money. We are getting a lot of support from around the community and from The City of LA.

Ron Ruda, interested in community input into the artistic aspect of Venice, wants to get the Public back into the process. Is concerned that stuff just shows up, like the big V at the beach.

Suzanne Thompson, member of Arts Council, SPARC & Beachhead are also sponsors.

Laura Silagi, as an artist I fell it's very important that we have a voice in public art, like the camel but needs a public process to know what the rules are.

CJ Cole, read a letter from Aldis Brown who wants an ad hoc committee of non interested persons to look into these expenditures. She was going to introduce and nominate Maria Gilbert for chair of the GRVNC Arts Committee but she has left.

Phil Raider, how many sponsors are there and what's the total budget?

Emily Winters, most of the sponsors we have are in kind, no other financial sponsors at this time, budget is \$2,500.00 and in kind about \$500.00 including \$500.00 for the facility and \$1,000.00 for printing.

Linda Lucks, likes the organization and hope the event will include all Venice artists and arts.

DeDe Audet, the name is now changed to??

Emily Winters, the name is now Venice Arts & Culture Workshop.

Motion carries 15-1-0

Move that The Board approve \$900.00 to kick off expenses and to help with the initiation of The CDO

Moved by Mindy Taylor-Ross, 2nd by Sylviane Dungan.

Mindy Taylor-Ross, there is \$150,000.00 in place from the Venice Surplus Property Fund that will go to pay for a planner for a year. The \$900.00 is seed money to kick off the project. CDO came about in response to the Lincoln Center overdevelopment. Community came together to establish the Venice Community Coalition who put on Envision Venice community design workshop in November 2003. Community Design Overlay unfolded, was brought to the attention of GRVNC and Councilwoman Miscikowski who brought to full City Council for yes vote in January 2005. Planner is being finalized and will be on board by January 2006. Community meetings to be determined as soon as possible. 1 year project

Phil Raider, are there any other sponsors and is there a budget?

Mindy Taylor-Ross, the money would be for room rental, advertising any money left over would be returned to GRVNC.

Richard Myers, he understands that we can't give people money but we can rent the room and pay for flyers and brochures and that the Events Committee would basically though their office pay for the expenses.

CJ Cole, the budget committee was specific that the money be used for outreach.

Motion carries 16-0-0

C. Additional New Business

Move that GRVNC have an emergency meeting on or before Monday 11/20/05 to consider and recommend action on Lincoln Place Apartments.

Moved by Challis Macpherson, 2nd by unknown female.

Discussion re calling and emergency meeting fixing a date resulted in the selection of 11/17/05

Michael King, can we put this together with a boardwalk emergency meeting.

Motion carries 15-0-1

CJ Cole, we tabled the motion on the budget until after item #11, can we please go back to the itemized draft allocated budget that needs to be approved.

Move that we combine the 2 budgets which were presented such we end up with a budget that includes communication and outreach for The CDO and Envision Venice.

Moved by CJ Cole, 2nd by unknown female

16-0-0

Suzanne Thompson, it's against the Brown Act and irresponsible to change the decision of any committee and have budgets. What we had allocated for the outreach committee was \$1,000.00 for advertising in the 3rd quarter, \$500.00 for 3rd quarter printing, \$500.00 for equipment rental and \$1,000.00 for miscellaneous, which came to \$3,000.00 in the 3rd quarter which includes money for Disaster Preparedness. It's really important for process a lot of things were kicked out because of process. I have found this board is already not committing not following the process and not following the Brown Act. Committees can not editorialize, chairs of committees have to say what they personally feel about something. It's up to the committee what the committee decided and I was at the committee meeting and the minutes should reflect that the committee voted to us, the CDO and in support of the workshop for the arts but someone to come up and I'd like to know how the board is going to handle more presses that come in.

Ed Ferrer, one of the things I thought of the budget Richard didn't actually have time to present to the committee, but it seemed to me a lot of money was budgeted for printing, the NC would be better represented by sponsoring events such as the arts thing and The Pacific Division outreach and that the board should spend more time sponsoring community events.

Move that another special meeting be held to consider Ocean Front Walk.

Moved by Sylviane Dungan, 2nd by unknown female

Linda Lucks, I don't recall discussing have a special meeting to discuss OFW. We discussed have a committee but never discussed having a special meeting

Michael King, I did bring up the issue of getting the letter out as soon as possible, and the emergency meeting was the phrase that we have one.

Richard Myers, we've had special meetings before without a board action, we can do this as soon as we get the information from the council office. We can set one now, and it might be wrong, if we want to tie ourselves that way we can.

LJ Carusone, that was implied by having a back to back meetings.

Move for a special meeting with DONE regarding the bylaws in December on either the 5th or 6th.

Moved by LJ Carusone, 2nd by unknown female

Richard Myers, when is the LUPC meeting and can we combine those.

Challis Macpherson, I've got 8 items on my agenda.

Phil Raider, there's really some question as to what action DONE can really take in regards to the bylaws that have been submitted to DONE by neighborhood councils. I don't have a clue what DONE intends to or hopes to accomplish with this meeting. They don't have a lot of options as to what they can do with a bylaws amendment. They've can look at it and say it complies with the charter or doesn't. They've had the bylaws for over a year. I have on several occasions attended DONE and BONC meetings and asked for some kind of resolution and have gotten nothing and now they want a special meeting.

Ivan Spiegel, can this be moved to the bylaws committee.

Deanna Stevenson, the administrative staff has received 2 sets of bylaws, the feel that the bylaws has gone through a complete process some of this has to go to the BONC and this is an effort to come out and be available.

Phil Raider, Does this have to be a meeting, it can't be a letter.

LJ Carusone, I withdraw my motion. DONE sent this request to the whole board for this meeting for the board.

Move that DONE meet with The Bylaws Committee and that The Committee report to The Board.

Moved by LJ Carusone, 2nd by Challis Macpherson

Phil Raider, DONE has made some decisions about this and I would request that we get this info ASAP so that we can digest this and that the info comes to the full board

Motion carries 14-0-0

Ivan Spiegel, after talking with people we need to have a special election meeting for the whole community to Confirm Susan Papadakis. Dante

Cacache has agreed to continue to serve as Chair of the Elections Committee. We need to have an election

12. Announcements

Jamie Cantor-Ginsberg, clean up for Rose Ave, the LA Conservation Corp will be helping, 11/23/05 and 12/15/05 they'll be out there, and every eight weeks after that.

13. Public Comment

Erin Grayson, please do everything you can to stop the lawless developer AIMCO. 82 households are a reminder of genocide, slavery, and discrimination that occurred in the not to distant pass.

Carol Beck, you need to shorten the meeting to less than four hours. We have a big problem with enforcement like the use of gas blowers and illegal evictions. We need teeth in our enforcement.

DeDe Audet, Jon Chang has a seminar non profit tax seminal, All could benefit. Prop O has a call for projects there is \$500,000,000.00 available.

14. Agenda Building, nothing

15. Adjourn, meeting adjourned 11/16/06 at 12:10 am. Motion to adjourn carried by acclamation.