



Venice Neighborhood Council

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



Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Macchi's Bistro (310-823-9838)
425 Washington Boulevard
Venice, California 90292
No Host Refreshments Available

"Given that each of us lives in a different world, what can we do to minimize misunderstandings?"

Agenda

[140909VNCDiscussionForumMeetingAgenda.pdf](#)

7:00 Call to Order | **Public Comment on items not on the agenda**

7:10 Discussion & Possible Action (DFC Motions & Long-Term Strategies)

- a. **Motions:** Request Board **Endorse in Concept** and **Encourage Implementation** of the below proposal contained in the Discussion Forum Committee's **VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix:**

| Idea Submitted by Joe Murphy (310-305-1444 joedmur@gmail.com) | Suggested Implementation Strategy | Enhances VNC Vision Goals |
|--|---|--|
| Walkability Impact Disclosure Ordinance (WIDO) Require government departments to prepare & publish a report indicating the impact of their proposed actions on the walkability of the communities in which the actions are to be implemented. Currently, many government departments act without being required to consult a community & without regard to impacts of their actions on community walkability such as: (i) Cutting down trees; (ii) Installing street-lights & telephone poles & bus-stops in sidewalks; (iii) Widening streets; (iv) Unknowns. | Create committee with the necessary expertise to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft & lobby Walkability Impact Disclosure Ordinance (WIDO) into all applicable ordinances Arrange for easy community monitoring of compliance of all departments with the WIDO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on Children Participation Walkability Diversity Creativity Collaboration Brainstorming |

- b. **Discussion of Long-Term Strategies** (using below **DFC Dialogue Procedure**):

- Brainstorm ideas on **Diversity Vision Goal**
- ByLaw Amendments:
 - Staggered 4-year terms
 - DFC → Standing Committee
 - Incorporate **VNC Vision Goals** into VNC Mission Statement

9:00 Adjourn

DFC Dialogue Procedure

Identify & clarify **misunderstandings** as necessary to enhance the productivity of the dialogue.

JDM provided sample responses to the below questions as a guide to using this DFC Dialogue Procedure.

What do you consider to be the most important long-term issue facing the Venice Community?

JDM Erosion of the character (social & physical) of the Venice Community.

If this issue is not addressed, what do you believe will be the long-term impact on the Venice Community?

JDM Sterile enclave of richer residents (erosion of diversity) living in boxes (erosion of creativity).

What are the long-term obstacles to resolving this issue?

JDM Land-use & other laws which prevent or discourage the creation of more creative less-expensive housing.

How can the DFC use its limited resources to help the Board address these long-term issues?

JDM Prioritize a long-term DFC focus on identifying how the land-use and other laws are preventing, or are being used or interpreted to prevent or discourage, the accommodation of more creative less-expensive housing in Venice. Consider & recommend alternative strategies to the Board to enhance rather than erode Venice's current diversity & creativity.

DFC Members

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In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the Venice Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd.; Oakwood Rec Center, 767 California Street; The Venice Ale House, 425 Ocean Front Walk; Groundworks Coffee, 671 Rose Ave; Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.; Penmar Park & Rec Center, 1341 Lake St.; and at our website by clicking on the following link: <http://venicenc.org/>, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact joedmurphy@ca.rr.com.



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Minutes of Prior DFC Meetings

5/1/2012 & 6/11/2012 & 7/11/2012 & 8/11/2012 Formation & decision to focus on VNC Walkability Vision Goal **9/11/2012** How can we encourage the residents and visitors of Venice to get out of their cars and spend more time enjoying our community as pedestrians? **10/2/2012** How would we group the ideas from our last meeting into categories that illustrate the primary positive qualities that embody our vision of walkability in Venice? **11/6/2012 & 12/4/2012** We have spent several sessions discussing Walkability and it is time to plan how we will complete work on this topic and report back to the VNC. Questions considered were:

Product: What will report cover and how will it be organized?

Process: What work needs to be completed and who will take responsibility for each piece?

Schedule: What are main tasks we need to complete going forward and when will each one be due?

1/8/2013 At Sarah Dennison's suggestion, Ilaria Mazzoleni, an architect who focuses on sustainable ideas for the built environment, shared insights learned from research work on bike-sharing and related topics accomplished with her graduate and undergraduate students at SCI-Arc – a presentation which stimulated intense pragmatic discussion on how to pedestrianize urban communities. **2/5/2013 & 3/5/2013** Discussion of Plan for Presentation to Board & how to implement walkability ideas received. **4/2/2013 & 5/7/2013 & 6/11/2013 & 7/2/2013 & 8/6/2013 & 8/20/2013** Preparation & Delivery of Presentation to Board: (i) Venice Walkability Study Venice Bike-Sharing Study Component; (ii) Additions to VNC Walkability Vision Goal Ideas Matrix. **9/3/2013** Debriefing of Presentation to Board & Discussion of future DFC options. **10/1/2013 & 11/5/2013** Discussion of the Modus Operandi (MO) of the DFC. **2/4/2014** Discussion of the Modus Operandi (MO) as presented by the DFC Chair. **3/4/2014** Unanimous adoption of Focus on Children Vision Goal motion & of motion recommending consolidation of Parking/ Walkability/Transportation (mobility) issues into one VNC Committee; discussion per above agenda continued to 4/1/2014 meeting. **4/1/2014 & 5/6/2014 & 6/3/2014** Discussion per above agenda continued to 7/1/2014 meeting. **7/1/2014** Decision to consider WIDO motion & to focus on VNC Diversity Vision Goal. **9/9/2014** TBD.

VNC Vision Goals

VNC Standing Rule 20 adopted unanimously by the Board on April 21, 2009 & amended unanimously by the Board on May 20, 2014 to insert the Focus on Children Vision Goal

To stimulate the vitality of the VNC, the Board and VNC Committees are encouraged to consider the below VNC Vision Goals in their deliberations.

Although the VNC is a political body, and inevitably it may become embroiled in issues that divide the community, these goals are designed to promote a more proactive, collaborative vision for VNC Committees to include in their deliberations as they formulate recommendations for Board consideration. The intent is to create a working framework of integrated strategies capable of achieving, over time, broader consensus and increased:

Focus on Children

Consider strategies that promote & expand opportunities for children to experience direct meaningful involvement in all aspects of the social and economic and cultural activities of the Venice Community. Include this Focus on Children as an integral part of the consideration of strategies in all of the below Vision Goals.

Participation

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate broader involvement of stakeholders, major organizations, community groups, and government institutions, etc.

Walkability

Consider strategies that reduce the use of cars and that promote alternatives such as walking, skateboarding, biking & bike racks, circulation systems (trolleys), park & ride rather than additional parking, street-narrowing/sidewalk widening, walk/bike/skateboard lanes separated from traffic, easier neighborhood pedestrian access to commercial stores, etc.

Diversity

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate realistic recommendations designed to increase economic diversity, including affordable housing, etc.

Creativity

Consider strategies that promote the arts, encourage & facilitate creativity. This can apply to architecture, public art, social events (neighborhood gatherings/street movies/theatre/dance/pottery/...), etc.

Collaboration

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate 'level playing fields' for collaborative negotiation; opt for procedures & policies that 'promote flexibility & dialogue' over 'reacting defensively to rigid criteria', facilitation/mediation training, etc.

Brainstorming

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate exploring of non-traditional options for achieving shared objectives, etc.

Upcoming DFC Meetings

(2nd Tuesday of each month unless otherwise notified)

10/14/2014 - 11/10/2014 - 12/9/2014 - 1/13/2015 - 2/10/2015 - 3/10/2015 - 4/14/2015 - 5/12/2015 - 6/9/2015 - 7/14/2015 - 8/11/2015 - 9/8/2015