

# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org)

## Joint Board & Discussion Forum Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM

Canal Club (310-823-3878)  
2025 Pacific Avenue (near North Venice Boulevard)  
Venice, California 90291  
*No Host Refreshments Available*

## Agenda

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

**7:05 Discussion Framework\*** (see also [Discussion Generator](#))

*\*All meetings are Discussion Only unless otherwise indicated*

The attached [LA Times OpEd](#) – contributed by two individuals who clearly understand the history of US land use and its' zoning underpinnings – challenges both the mayor's [Hoover Style Development](#) & the protectionists' [Neighborhood Integrity Initiative](#) strategies for dealing with the current LA Housing Crisis. It has implications for VNC's LUP and Homeless Committees among others.

The authors of the attached propose the following alternative integrated strategy:

- Instead of trying to preordain exactly what is or isn't allowed on every single piece of land, we should abandon micromanagement and — simultaneously — think big by funding improvements to infrastructure.
- We should begin by eliminating parking requirements and easing up restrictions on commerce in residential areas, which can make neighborhoods more walkable and diverse.
- We should reverse the bans on density that hindered L.A.'s ability to absorb new housing units in the early 1970s, resulting in today's affordability crises.
- We should undo community planning policies that exclude low-income residents from "high opportunity" neighborhoods by limiting where multi-family housing can be built.
- Opening up the city to more small and medium scale projects can empower families, building groups, co-ops and community corporations to become their own developers and city shapers, rather than trying to block change in order to feel heard.
- But such tweaks will only take us so far. If we want a better city, we as a community need to build a framework for productive growth, more equitable access to opportunity, and a more sustainable future. A safer street grid, expanded transit, well-maintained and shaded sidewalks, sustainable water and energy systems, more parks and adequate city services are the real pathways to a city that works for everyone.
- If we focus on public projects that benefit us all, a better city will evolve around them.

**7:10 Discussion**

**10:00 Adjourn**

## DFC Members

Donna Schubert [dlschubert@aol.com](mailto:dlschubert@aol.com)  
Joe Murphy [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com)

Mehrnoosh Mojallali [mehrnoosh@mehrnoosh.com](mailto:mehrnoosh@mehrnoosh.com)  
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Nicolas Hippisley-Cox [hippisley@earthlink.net](mailto:hippisley@earthlink.net)

## Minutes of ■ Prior Joint Board & DFC Meetings & ■ Related Board Actions

■ [5/1/2012 to 12/9/2014](#) Formation of DFC, focus on [VNC Walkability Vision Goal](#), development of [VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix](#), development and presentation of report to board on DFC activities, development of DFC Dialogue Procedure, development of DFC-Board [Modus Operandi](#) (mutually-supportive relationship), drafted & successfully recommended board adoption of [Focus on Children Vision Goal](#), and recommending board implementation of the [Walkability Impact Disclosure Ordinance \(WIDO\)](#) item in the [VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix](#).

■ [1/20/2015](#) Board accepted responsibility for implementation of the [Walkability Impact Disclosure Ordinance \(WIDO\)](#) item in the [VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix](#). ■ [7/15/2014 to 3/10/2015](#) Focus on [VNC Diversity Vision Goal](#). ■ [2/17/2015](#) Board agreed to forward to WRAC and urge it to take responsibility to implement the [Walkability Impact Disclosure Ordinance \(WIDO\)](#) item in the [VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix](#).

■ [4/14/2015 & 5/12/2015](#) Cancelled. ■ [6/9/2015 to 3/9/2016](#) Focus on [VNC Diversity Vision Goal](#). ■ [4/12/2016 to 6/14/2016](#) Focus on [VNC Collaboration Vision Goal](#). ■ [19/13/2016 & 10/11/2016 & 11/8/2016](#) Continued to [12/13/2016](#) Focus on [VNC Diversity Vision Goal](#). ■ [1/10/2017](#) TBD.

## Future Joint Board & DFC Meetings

170110 - 170214 – 170314 – 170411 – 170509 – 170613 – 170711 – 170808 – 170912 – 171010 – 171114 – 171212

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## DFC Mission Statement

The DFC mission is to provide a monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the below VNC Vision Goals

The VNC Vision Goals were adopted unanimously by the Board on April 21, 2009 as Standing Rule 20 and amended unanimously by the Board on May 20, 2014 to insert the Focus on Children Vision Goal

## VNC Vision Goals

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 less expensive\***] housing, etc. [\* Clarification inserted November 24, 2014 by Joe Murphy]

### 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.

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**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS:** The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Discussion Forum Committee on any agenda item before the Discussion Forum Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Discussion Forum Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Discussion Forum Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Discussion Forum Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

**POSTING:** 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 Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: [www.venicenc.org](http://www.venicenc.org), or at the scheduled meeting. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com).

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS:** For information on the VNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website [www.venicenc.org](http://www.venicenc.org).

**DISABILITY POLICY:** The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request.