PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / <u>www.VeniceNC.org</u> Email: <u>info@VeniceNC.org</u> / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015

Minutes of the June 3, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

Voting Members (Present): Joe Murphy (VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair), Paul Davis (parent and architect), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Joelle Dumas (Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Connie Clotworthy (Founder, Director of Worthy Beyond Purpose); (Absent): Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), Medina Goodman (parent and creative industries placement executive).

Community Members: Rachel Bindman (Los Angeles Public Library, Venice Branch Mgr), Ron Harris II (Community & Outreach Coordinator of SPY - Safe Place for Youth).

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 - May 6, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Minutes and June 3, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Agenda

Adopted unanimously.

- 5:31 Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda
- 5:35 Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s):

Request VNC Board schedule time for Paul Davis to provide the first of the promised periodic updates of the progress of his DFC sub-committee in creating the <u>Youth Internship Program</u> endorsed by the VNC Board at its March 19, 2019 meeting.

Moved by Paul Davis & seconded by Connie Clotworthy: adopted unanimously

5:40 Updates & Presentations, Discussion

5:40 • Initiative Updates & Presentations

o Paul Davis - Youth Internship Program:

Since our last report, the Internship Committee has made great progress, through discussions with a variety of informed sources who are committed to helping further our efforts.

One of them is Mr. David Silberman, Work Experience Coordinator at Venice High School. Mr. Silberman and several of his students will join our July 1, 2019 meeting and make a presentation on ways in which the FOC Committee can further internship probrams at Venice High School.

o Joelle Dumas - Venice Chamber of Commerce Education Committee: <u>Venice Wave Awards</u>
Joelle spoke of their project as a source of creativity and renewal to honor the presence of children in
Venice and to emphasize the importance of education. The committee hosts 4 to 5 events annually. They
maintain a 34-year-old tradition at Venice High School encouraging students in Venice to excel with
jackets of excellence, holding a luncheon for parents, teachers and LAUSD representatives to publicly
honor students. In December they do giveaway bags for homeless children. In May they honor
exemplary teachers during an Oscar-like ceremony called <u>The Wave Awards</u>.

o Joe Murphy - Quorum Assurance Procedure:

Joe acknowledged the reality that it is unrealistic to expect consistent attendance from voting members who have multiple obligations which often must take priority over their volunteer involvements (family, work, children, travel, etc.) and indicated that, if he is advised of inability to attend in advance of a meeting, he can take the steps to assure a quorum at meetings where motions are to be considered.

- 6:00 Discussion
 - O New Initiatives:
 - **↓** Joelle Dumas: Children's Parade

 Joelle assumed responsibility for implementing this initiative and will report on progress at future
 - Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Children Pedestrians

 Mehrnoosh received an aerial plan of the library and surrounding area from Paul Davis and assumed
 responsibility for implementing this initiative and will report on progress at future meetings.

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o Future Initiative Ideas & Discussion Topics building on Needs Assessment Survey

Joe Murphy: Possible political involvements relating to young people

Joe has assumed temporary responsibility for implementing this initiative since he is familiar with the individuals and procedures relating to the VNC and will report on progress at future meetings. He mentioned interest in Paul's involvement of David Silberman and the possible attendance of several students at the July 1, 2019 DFC Focus on Children meeting. And David also mentioned Nancy Zubiri since the discussion with David included the possibility of involving students, as journalists, with the VNC newsletter and he indicated that she would be the VHS teacher to contact for that purpose.

Reading: An element of connection between high-school and younger students

At a prior meeting, Mark Washington emphasized the importance of reading to the development of children and that generated interest and ideas on how to implement this initiative among other participants present at the discussion – one of which was to involve older (middle/high school) youth in reading to younger children (starting at pre-school ages since doing so at that age level was considered critical to the development of the imagination and creativity of their minds – like learning foreign languages).

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, July 1, 2019 at the Venice Library

7:00