



Venice Neighborhood Council



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Minutes of the September 9, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children** Meeting

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

Community Members: Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms).

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** – July 1, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children** Meeting Minutes and September 9, 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:**

Whereas, the Discussion Forum Committee of the VNC exists to “Provide a monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the VNC Vision Goals”, and

Whereas, the Discussion Forum Committee has resolved to turn its efforts to the “Focus on Children” Vision Goal, and

Whereas, the “Focus on Children” Vision Goal establishes that the VNC will “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”, and

Whereas, VNC Vision Goals such as “Participation” and “Walkability” remain of keen interest to the DFC, particularly as they relate to children’s issues, and

Whereas, public libraries are vital assets in a neighborhood, for the promotion of learning, reading, and for general community-building, particularly among children and families, and

Whereas, Venice is favored with a splendid public library, the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, but it is undisputed that its location on – in effect – a “traffic island” between North and South Venice Boulevard may serve automobiles well but creates great barriers to pedestrians desiring to find and visit the library on foot, and

Whereas, increased pedestrian access to this Library would be of great benefit to local children, their parents and the community at large, then

Be it therefore resolved (Motion) that:

The VNC Board is supportive of the DFC’s efforts to work towards proposals for the permitting, funding, and construction of enhanced pedestrian access features for the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library. Such measures might include crosswalks, stop signs, signals, or pedestrian overpasses.

The DFC’s efforts on this front are being led by Mehrnoosh Mojallali, licensed architect, urban designer, and former member of the Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee.

Adopted unanimously.

5:40 **Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion**

5:40 **▪ Initiative Updates & Presentations**

○ Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program - Paul Described the FOC’s brief presentation to the VNC Board and public at the last monthly VNC meeting. The internship committee is continuing its efforts to prepare for a first “class” of Venice High interns in Spring of ‘20. More news soon!

○ Joelle Dumas: Children’s Parade

○ Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Pedestrians

6:00 **▪ Discussion**

○ New Initiatives: None

○ Possible Future Initiative Ideas & Discussion Topics building on [Needs Assessment Survey](#)

✚ Mark Washington/Rachel Bindman: Encourage reading relationships between high-school youth & very young children

✚ Joe Murphy: Housing Homeless Students, Possible **Focus on Children** involvement

✚ Joe Murphy: Possible involvement of young people in local government

7:00 **Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, October 7, 2019 at the Venice Library**

It’s YOUR Venice - get involved!

VNC Joint Board & Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Agenda

1 of 1 - Prepared 10/1/2019