



Venice Neighborhood Council



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Minutes of the October 7, 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), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring); **(Absent):** John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Connie Clotworthy (Founder, Director of Worthy Beyond Purpose).

Community Members: Sofia Hathorn (LMU English/Journalism Student).

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 - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and 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):

▪ **Modification of motion providing pedestrian access to library:**

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;

It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

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.

Adopted unanimously.

▪ **Support for Venice Moms:**

Whereas, the DFC’s **Focus on Children** Committee supports the efforts of Regan Kibbee, moderator of the Venice Moms email group (at Groups.io) and creator of the www.VeniceMoms.com website, to provide parents a forum to connect with one another in parenting children:

It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

The VNC Board is supportive of Venice Moms, an online community for local parents to share information, parenting support, and opportunities to connect, since 2002.

Adopted unanimously.

5:40 Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion

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

- **Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program – Paul distributed a draft copy of the internship committee’s flyer, a document aimed at helping local businesses and non-profits (etc.) learn about their opportunity to host Venice High School student interns. The committee suggested edits and a condensing of the information provided. Paul will coordinate the distribution of the flyer through local channels (TBD – Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice High School journalism avenues, etc.). We will set up an info page on the VNC website to elaborate on program details. A website address needs to be set up. Further reports to follow. Hosts to be identified by early December.**
- **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, November 4, 2019 at the Venice Library