



Venice Neighborhood Council

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VNC Neighborhood Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 28, 2014

Meeting Time: 7:30PM to 9:00pm

Meeting Location: Extra Space Storage Meeting Room - 658 South Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291

Contact: Marc.Saltzberg@VeniceNC.org see: VeniceNC.org/neighborhood-committee for more information

- 7:30AM – Welcome and Introductions – see VeniceNC.org/neighborhood-committee to see member names
- Call to Order & Roll Call

Adam Glick	Arrived at start of 12.b.	Kathryn Nelson	
Bill Boyd		Lydia Pelosi	Present
Carmen Navarro	Present	Marc Saltzberg (Chair)	Present
Carolyn Rios	Present	Marianna Aguilar	Present
Daniel Pinedo		Mark Kanights	Present
DeDe Audette		Michael Nelson	Present
Jay Cole	Present	Mike Newhouse (ex officio)	
Jerry Jaffe	Present	Nicholas Hippisley-Coxe	Left prior to vote on 12.b.
Joan Wrede	Present	Sarah Shoup	
Joe Verrone	Present	Tom Elliott	
John Weston	Present		
Guests: LAPD SLO Peter Abskharon		Ted Lieu Field Rep Janet Turner	
		Marie Pabanova	

- Approve Agenda [MK / CR 11-0-1](#)
- Approve New Neighborhood Committee Member Carmen Navarro for Oakwood North (see: www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/NC_App_C_Navarro_Redact.pdf)
Discussion: several people are unable to meet Thursday mornings. Others are unable to meet on scheduled days in Sept, Nov, and Dec. (all dates for these months will be changed to avoid upcoming Holidays). Subject of regular meeting dates will be on agenda for December.

[Motion to approve NHC / MK 11-0-1](#)

- ANNOUNCEMENTS – Information about specific events important to Venice
 - Small Lot Subdivision Re-Interpreted for Venice Specific Plan [see link at: http://www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/VZSP_DIR_Specific_Plan_Interpretation_Revised.pdf](http://www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/VZSP_DIR_Specific_Plan_Interpretation_Revised.pdf)
- PUBLIC COMMENT – non-agendized items related to Neighborhood Committee only.
- Approve minutes from previous meetings – [07/24/2014](#) Motion to Approve: JV / NHC 9-0-1
- 8:00 – Report on Last VNC Board Meeting
- 8:05 – Report from LAPD [Acting Sr Lead Officer \(SLO\) Peter Abskharon](#) re: Venice SLO's, [LAPD Cars](#), Local Crime [Maps & Stats](#), Crime [Reporting](#)

Peter is acting SLO in the Oakwood area for Kristen DeLaTorre who is out with an injury (she should be returning in a few months). Peter explained that the SLO's act as the interface between LAPD Patrol Officers and the public. SLOs also assist in the set-up and operations of Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch groups. They are not transferred from area to area due to resource needs and therefore get to know the situations in their assigned areas. Peter said that crime, overall, is down but that the incidence of Hot-Prowl Burglaries and theft from vehicles is up. Both can be

guarded against by removing valuable object from plain sight (especially personal electronics in the case of vehicles), locking all doors and closing and locking windows. Peter can be reached at 33648@lapd.lacity.org.

10. 8:15 – Report from State Senator Ted Lieu's Field Officer Janet Turner re: State Alcohol Control Board

Janet reported on an 8/14 meeting she organized with representatives of the [State Alcohol Beverage Control Board \(ABC\)](#), LA City Planning, LA City Attorney and West Side Stakeholders. The meeting was requested by stakeholder to clarify roles in conditioning and enforcement of conditions placed on alcohol sales.

- a. Janet will provide a written report in the near future
- b. The City Attorney's office will clarify what can be conditions can be placed on CUBs by LA City Planning
- c. ABC can respond to conditioning requests made by Neighborhood Councils and Stakeholders - To request a hearing, an ABC Protest Against Alcoholic Beverage License (<http://www.abc.ca.gov/FORMS/ABC510A.pdf>) must be filed within 30 days of the announcement of an application of a permit (catch 22 – stakeholders are NOT currently notified of such applications. Senator Lieu will prepare legislation to require notice and clarify other ABC procedures and will ask his successor to submit the legislation in the next term).
- d. ABC can investigate complaints, impose penalties and revoke licenses. Complaints should be made to LA City Planning Condition Compliance Unit (CCU AND via LAPD (officers will not routinely file reports – the person complaining has to insist that complaints be filed)

11. Old Business:

- a. Follow-up on Neighborhood Committee Member Training - Postponed to September
- b. Review and possible action re: Neighborhood Committee Goals see: [Exhibit 1](#) - Postponed to September

12. New Business:

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding Motion from Carolyn Rios, Oakwood South:
[Support for Installation of New Bathrooms at Oakwood Park](#) see: [Exhibit 2](#) for Motion - Postponed to October
- b. Discussion and Possible Action re Motion from Adam Glick, Marina Peninsula East
One-Way Traffic on Strongs Drive Resolution see [Exhibit 5](#) Motion: AG / CR Approved: 12-0-1
- c. Discussion and Possible Action re: Motion from John Weston, Marina Peninsula West
Traffic Control Officer at Washington and Pacific see: [Exhibit 3](#) Motion: JW / AG Approved: 12-0-1
- d. Discussion and Possible action re Motion:
Crosswalk at Washington and Pacific see: [Exhibit 4](#) Motion: AG / JV Approved: 12-0-1
- e. Discussion of Alley Parking (illegal – but sometimes needed for drop-off) - Postponed to September
- f. Discussion and Possible Action re: Neighborhood Committee Outreach Program - Postponed to September
- g. Neighborhood Reports - Postponed to September

13. Next Meeting – October 2nd??? at 7:30PM?? NOTE: Date changed to avoids meeting on Rosh Hashana

[Discussion – a number of people cannot make it on 10/2 at 7:30PM. A date will be found and confirmed by Marc.](#)

14. 9:00 – Adjourn

EXHIBIT 1
PROPOSED GOALS: 2014 - 2015

- 1) Continue & expand dialog with CD11 (example: quarterly meetings with Cecilia Castello).
- 2) Improve working relationship with VNC Land Use and Planning Committee with activities such as:
 - Monthly discussion of LUPC Cases / Neighborhood concerns (need to determine best plan.)
 - Improve outreach to neighbors regarding pending LUPC cases (publish on VNC website?)
 - Improve understanding of Venice Specific Plan and other neighborhood plans affecting development
 - Improve understanding of City ordinances and processes that control development
- 3) Identify and prioritize street repairs, sidewalk repairs and street flooding issues in Venice
- 4) Identify traffic safety improvements (crosswalk installations, bike lane placement, signage and signal improvements) to reduce transportation and traffic hazards.
- 5) Obtain city funding for projects of concern to Neighborhood Committee such as:
 - Canal bridges, currently a public safety hazard.
 - 3-way stoplight at Pacific and Brooks
 - Stoplight at Abbot Kinney and Coeur d'Alene
 - Via Dolce Park
- 6) Review / make recommendations regarding Grand Canal Plan (improvements south of Washington to Hurricane):
 - Strongs Drive – parking and directionality
 - Restoration of Grand Canal (cleanup, culverts and landscaping)
 - Proposed park and walking path
- 7) Improve Community Improvement Project processes
 - Increase number of applications
 - Provide "coaching" on grant writing for applicants
 - Improve evaluations and ranking
- 8) Explore funding alternatives for projects the City can't / isn't moving forward on:
 - Grants
 - Special assessment districts
 - Corporate support (Google, tour companies, film companies, etc)
 - Community fundraising events
 - Crowd Sourcing
 - Establishment of tax-deductible non-profit foundations.
- 9) Work with VNC Public Safety Committee to increase Neighborhood Watch programs
- 10) Work with VNC Public Safety Committee to expand emergency neighborhood preparedness programs
- 11) Work with City to explore sea level rise issues for Venice and potential mitigation
- 12) Work with VNC committees and other entities (LUPC, Safety, L.A. County, private non-profits) regarding issues arising from proliferation of liquor licenses such as noise abatement, traffic safety, sanitation, crime.
 - Work with LUPC and other committees to identify areas where concentration should be limited.
 - Develop motion to recommend City Policy on concentration and a definition of "public convenience vs necessity."
- 13) Address the impacts of MDR/County expansion on Venice.
- 14) Seek funds for park benches.
- 15) Expand committee outreach via personal contacts, brochures and web contacts.

EXHIBIT 2

Motion: Installation of Bathrooms at Oakwood Park

The Neighborhood Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the VNC Governing Board pass the following motion recommending installation of bathrooms at the north end of the ball field at Oakwood Recreation Center near the picnic tables

WHEREAS, Oakwood Park is used by hundreds of people in Venice each day but the only bathroom facilities are located inside the Recreation Center, a building that is locked after hours (hours of operation: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm; Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Sunday: Closed); and

WHEREAS, the picnic tables at the north end of the ball field attract large groups of people, especially on the week-ends, but the only bathrooms are two blocks south inside the Oakwood Recreation Center; and

WHEREAS, residents living near the park have complained for years about feces found in alleys and public urination problems, which results in public health and safety issues for both users of the park and nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, the Oakwood Park Advisory Board and the Oakwood Senior Group have recommended that the Los Angeles Department Recreation and Parks install new bathrooms at the north end of the Oakwood Recreation Center near the picnic tables;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Venice Neighborhood Council Governing Board recommends the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks install permanent bathrooms at the north end of the ball field at Oakwood Park with appropriate provisions for the security of the building and facilities to prevent vandalism and improper use.

This Resolution shall be sent to: Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin; Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager Michael Schull; LA Dept of Recreation and Parks Assistant General Manager of Recreation Operations Kevin Regan; Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Valley Region Supervisor Charles Singer; Oakwood Park Manager Lizka Mendsoa; CD11 Venice Field Deputy Cecilia Castillo

EXHIBIT 3

Motion: Traffic Control Officer at Washington and Pacific

The Neighborhood Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the Board of the VNC pass the following resolution regarding improving summer weekend traffic flow at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Pacific Avenue (“the Intersection”) by stationing a traffic control officer at the Intersection:

WHEREAS, the Intersection is the gateway to the Venice Pier (to the west), the Marina del Rey and Venice Beaches (to the south and north), the major parking lot south of the Venice Pier, the Venice boardwalk and bike path, as well as the exit point for all of these attractions;

WHEREAS, there are scores of restaurants, bars and retail establishments immediately east and west of the Intersection, all of which attract traffic;

WHEREAS, the Intersection is a prime chokepoint for automobile, bicycle, skateboard and pedestrian traffic into and departing from the Venice – Marina del Rey beachfront and environs;

WHEREAS, traffic has become unmanageable during busy periods leading to gridlock, congestion, flaring tempers, jaywalking and a host of other traffic violations, significant exhaust emission, fender benders, road rage and general urban distress;

WHEREAS, the Intersection necessarily receives much of the traffic in the area because of the limited number of north and south through streets and no westbound egress because of the “edge of the continent;”

WHEREAS, the combined traffic and resulting bottlenecks greatly restrict access of emergency vehicles and personnel responding to a natural or manmade disaster or other fire/police/medical or infrastructure emergency, constituting a clear and present danger to the community. The recent tragic lightning-strike fatality and injuries and the vehicular homicide on the Venice Boardwalk along with other common and/or statistically unusual but likely scenarios point out the need for substantially improved ability to evacuate the beach area, while control and regulation of the density of traffic of all kinds in the vicinity of the Intersection are critical for smooth traffic flow;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Venice Neighborhood Council Governing Board recommends the City of Los Angeles station a traffic control officer at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Pacific Avenue during summer weekends and Holidays to direct and divert traffic. This Resolution shall be sent to: Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager Jon Mukri, Parking Enforcement & Traffic Control Group Executive Officer Greg Savelli, Marina Peninsula Community Council President Sandie West and posted to MyLADOT.

Exhibit 4

Motion: Installation of Crosswalk(s) across Washington Blvd near Venice Beach

The Neighborhood Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the VNC Governing Board pass the following motion recommending installation of a crosswalk from the northeast corner to the southeast corner of the intersection of Washington Blvd. and Pacific Ave. and / or install additional crosswalks between the intersections of Washington and Pacific and Washington and Dell Ave.

WHEREAS, the Venice Neighborhood Council has recognized the need for a safe pedestrian crossing of Washington Blvd. between the intersections of Washington and Pacific Ave. and Washington and Dell Ave, having passed a motion on 7/19/2011 to recommend a "scramble" crosswalk at Washington and Pacific and a second motion on 3/20/2012 recommending a crosswalk at Washington and Strongs Drive; and

WHEREAS, the first of these recommendations was denied with the message that DOT would install no additional "scramble" crosswalks in the City of LA; and

WHEREAS, no determination regarding the second recommendation was ever communicated to the VNC; and

WHEREAS, the Venice Neighborhood Council continues to be concerned about the potential for traffic accidents resulting from jaywalking across Washington Blvd between the east side of Pacific Ave and Dell Ave, in part because there are no pedestrian crosswalks at any corner along that section of Washington;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation meet with community representatives to determine a suitable location for a crosswalk(s) crossing Washington Blvd. between Pacific Ave. and Dell Ave. [and insure that the crosswalk\(s\) design meet LA DOT standards for pedestrian safety; and then that LA DOT install such a crosswalk\(s\).](#)

This Resolution shall be sent to: Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager Jon Mukri, Senior Transportation Engineer, Brian Gallagher, Transportation Engineering Associate, Rudy Guevara, Los Angeles School Board Member Steve Zimmer, Westside Global Awareness Magnet School Principal Cyril Baird, Marina Peninsula Community Council President Sandie West and posted to MyLADOT.

Exhibit 5**One-Way Traffic on Strongs Drive**

The Neighborhood Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the Governing Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council pass the following resolution regarding improvements to traffic flow along Strongs Drive South of Washington Blvd:

WHEREAS Strongs Drive south of Washington to Driftwood is a residential street with a diverse and relatively heavy traffic mix due to the access provided to the area's multi-family zoning, a bordering pre-kindergarten through Jr. High Magnet School, access to the beach and availability of street parking, proximity to a very heavy concentration of drinking and dining establishments on Washington (which requires street parking for all employees and many patrons), and functions as one of the only exit / egress roads for the west side of the Marina del Rey Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Strongs Drive south of Washington Blvd is only 27 feet wide, including parking on both sides of the street but the standard for a two-way street width in the City of Los Angeles is 50 feet; and

WHEREAS, Traffic on Strongs Drive becomes gridlocked whenever a truck (or large van) tries to travel in one direction while another vehicle attempts to travel in the other direction and is frequently gridlocked on weekends when the volume of traffic swells; and

WHEREAS many autos parked along Strongs Drive sustain damage as a result of drivers attempting to negotiate the tight street or who try to make "U" turns; and

WHEREAS pedestrian safety is compromised because there are no sidewalks on either side of Strongs Drive (the Venice Grand Canal is adjacent to the eastern side of Strongs which provides a walking path); and

WHEREAS the residents who live along Strongs Drive are often subjected to excessive noise resulting from the automobile horns used by drivers frustrated by the near constant gridlock of Strongs drive; and

WHEREAS residents on Marina Peninsula are concerned about emergency evacuation of the peninsula while LAUSD is concerned about traffic flow around the school to insure student safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that Strongs Drive between Washington Blvd and Driftwood St. be posted as a one-way street and that a working group composed Los Angeles Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel, local residents, representatives of Los Angeles Unified School District and the Venice Neighborhood Council determine whether to make Driftwood St between Pacific and Strongs Drive one-way and the direction one-way traffic should flow.

This Resolution shall be sent to: Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Manager Jon Mukri, Senior Transportation Engineer, Brian Gallagher, Transportation Engineering Associate, Rudy Guevara, Los Angeles School Board Member Steve Zimmer, Westside Global Awareness Magnet School Principal Cyril Baird, Marina Peninsula Community Council President Sandie West and posted to MyLADOT