



Venice Neighborhood Council

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VNC Neighborhood Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 23, 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

1. 7:30 – Call to Order & Roll Call

Adam Glick	Y	Joshua Blacker	
Antoinette Reynolds		Linda Lucks (ex-officio)	Y
Bill Boyd	Y	Lydia Pelosi	Y
Colleen Saro		Marc Saltzberg (Chair)	
Daffodil Tyminski		Margot Michon	
DeDe Audette	Y	Michael Nelson	Y
Gogi Overhoff		Michael Stenger	Y
Jay Cole	Y	Nicholas Hippisley-Coxe	
Jerry Jaffe	Y	Robin Rudisill	Y
		Ron Sittler	
Guests:			
Robert Aronson	Y	Marquis Olison	Y

2. Approve Agenda: the Agenda was approved with no changes.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Information about specific events important to Venice:

- a. President Linda Lucks announced that VNC Elections are coming up on May 18th and strongly encouraged Neighborhood Committee (NC) members to run for the Board. She added that she thinks that the NC is doing a great job!
- b. Dede Audet introduced Madeline Ostrander, an independent journalist from Seattle, who is writing an article about Sea Level Rise Vulnerability. The City recently issued a report on this subject, which, according to Madeline, is very conservative. Madeline spent time with several VNC community members, including Robin Rudisill and Darryl Dufay. Dede mentioned that the City has not historically done a good job on managing the tidal gates for the canal area, for example, and that there are inter-jurisdictional issues between the City and the County. The group asked that the Chair request that Helen Stotler keep the link to the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Report on the VNC website for awhile longer.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – non-agendized items related to NC only:

- a. Robert Aronson said that he feels like the VNC could be run a bit differently. He suggested there be more subdivisions in each neighborhood so that people in each neighborhood could take an interest in and be responsible for different things on behalf of the others in the Community, e.g. someone in each NC defined neighborhood could keep an eye on street improvements. Robert also feels like we as a group could be doing a better job at getting people involved in the VNC. He said that the NC has their fingers on the pulse, and that “the NC is where it all happens.” It was suggested that each subarea be divided into blocks, similar to the LAPD “Super Block Captain” program (see below under New Business a. Nextdoor). Every area should be subdivided into smaller groups.

Jay Cole indicated that the Canals and the Silver Strand already have organizations established in their neighborhoods that are very involved in the Community, and such associations are a very effective way to organize for more participation in the Community. Per DeDe Audet, the Oxford Triangle is brought together by Reta Moser via the Triangle Update email newsletter. It would also be very effective in terms of more involvement to start with the kids, and they will naturally get their parents involved. It was suggested that each neighborhood should write a newsletter for their Community, similar to the Triangle Update, and each neighborhood could also be required or allowed to put an update in the quarterly VNC Newsletter.

- b. Robert Aronson also asked the NC to consider naming the CIP grant(s) after the Founder of the VNC, as he had requested once before but the NC denied, which he could not understand.
5. Approve minutes from previous meetings – [11/21/2013](#): the minutes from 11/21/13 were approved with no changes.
6. Report on Last VNC Board Meeting
 - a. Robin gave an update on the highlights of Commissioner Tom Donovan's presentation/Q&A.
 - b. Councilperson Bonin discussed the winter shelter storage program. He said that reports that it would be moved to another location were false and that he had decided the voluntary storage unit will be kept at the paddle tennis courts for approximately six months (until July). Leaving the voluntary storage available will allow the City to continue the Warn, Bag, Tag & Store program which has had initial success in clearing OFW of abandoned property.
7. Old Business
 - a. Community Improvement Projects – 2014 schedule & deadlines and outreach. Ivan Spiegel joined the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and reviewed the details of the CIP program. **THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 2, 2014. ALL NC MEMBERS WERE ASKED TO STRONGLY PROMOTE THE PROGRAM.**
8. New Business
 - a. Nextdoor & Venice: Marquis Olison of Nextdoor presented information about the new partnership between [Nextdoor.com](#) and the City of Los Angeles, LAPD and LAFD: Marquis is meeting with the LAPD Pacific Division to start a "Super Block Captains" program. He encouraged all committee members to get signed up on Nextdoor.com.
 - b. From Robert Aronson - Discussion and possible action re: NC as a filter for LUPC cases: Robert Aronson, Venice LUPC representative, indicated that NC members can subscribe to a weekly list of approximately 10-20 projects, which each member could then review and see if there are any projects for which they would like more information, such as the high level building plans, or which they would like to visit. All projects are posted to Cityhood, and based on this source each project would have a description and a link to Cityhood for all available details. A form will be created for each subarea or neighborhood, and members can ask for projects only in their neighborhood/subarea or for all neighborhoods/subareas (some projects would be determined by LUPC to be of interest to everyone, i.e. the Abbot Kinney Hotel), or for a group of specified neighborhoods/subareas. This reporting will allow NC members to provide input or ask questions and also alert their neighbors if they want to.
 - c. From Jay Cole: Discussion and possible action re: Town Hall on SB1818, Small Lot Subdivision, Venice Specific Plan and Land Use Plan: although there is plenty of information on the internet on this subject, the group agreed that the Town Hall is an excellent idea and asked that the Chair send a request to the Outreach Committee to do this.
 - d. From Marc Saltzberg: Discussion and possible action on an attendance requirement for Neighborhood Committee Member. Proposed: Neighborhood Committee Members who miss three consecutive meetings or four meetings in six months will be removed from the Committee by the Chair of the Committee. This item was postponed until the next meeting when Marc can lead the discussion.
 - e. Bill Boyd: asked that the committee do a "performance evaluation" on itself, and the group generally agreed to ask the Chair to put this on the next Agenda. This would include an analysis of what was planned vs. what was accomplished, both for the group and for individuals. For any things that were not accomplished, the reason for this should be analyzed, i.e. why the proposed Board Motions did not pass, which will be a learning experience.

Adam Glick: asked why no Google employees are involved in our organization, as we were told that the company gave them several paid days per year for community service. Linda said that she would provide the contact information for the Google Community Outreach officer so that we can follow up.
9. Next Meeting – February 27
10. 9:00 – Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.