

# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org)



## Special Joint Committee/Board meeting

Ocean Front Walk Committee, Public Safety Committee, and VNC Board

Oakwood Recreation Center Meeting Room

767 California Ave, Venice, CA 90291

Monday, November 25, 2013, 6:30-9:30pm

### MINUTES

#### **1.) Call To Order**

#### **2.) Approval of Agenda Ron approve, Shelly second.**

#### **3.) Public Comment for items not on the Agenda and within the Committee's jurisdiction**

Stuart Oscars---10 year old boy trying to break in and is scared and the neighborhood near Cotz de Lane elementary.

Gary Harris---Storage locker coming back to the boardwalk? Will VNC vote on it?

Carl Lambert---makes rec on whether or not city should implement Warn Bag and Tag storage program. Health, Safety, Violation and program.

#### **4.) For Discussion and Possible Action:**

##### **A) Review motions from November 7, 2013 Special Joint Committee meeting in response to the City of Los Angeles Ocean Front Walk Public Safety Assessment,**

**[http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0981\\_rpt\\_drp\\_8-14-13.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2013/13-0981_rpt_drp_8-14-13.pdf) and possibility amend the committee motions to include the following:**

- 1. Reasons for the committee's actions**
- 2. Suggestions on what the committees might propose as an alternative.**

##### **B) Draft additional motions about Ocean Front Walk Public Safety considering recommendations and suggestions from Venice stakeholders presented at the VNC Public Safety Town Hall on October 29, 2013.**

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## 1) AUTOMATED RETRACTABLE BOLLARD SYSTEM

The Ocean Front Walk Committee recommends that the City of Los Angeles not support the installation of automated bollards because of cost of installation, maintenance and potential for failure.

Gail Motion, Ron Second

6 in favor  
0 opposed  
0 abstain

Public Comments: Gonzo, do not install, take out recommend further study, Carl

Board comments: because of cost of installation, maintenance and potential failure. The cost can be utilized in more beneficial ways.

## 2) GATE AND BOLLARD SYSTEM

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA does not install a lockable gate system because it will obstruct delivery, restrict handicap access and is potentially dangerous in a crowded panic situation.

Ron Motion, Shelly Second

6 in favor  
0 opposed  
0 abstain

Public Comments:

Carl-looking to put gates mid street not taking into account deliveries.  
Gonzo---crazy to have gates.

Board Comments:

Linda---maintenance issue  
Shelly---handicap issue.

## 3) HARD STREET CLOSURES

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA does not install steel and concrete bollards at OFW, but rather supports the use of functional and artistic obstructions that may

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include welcome arches, bike racks, statues, art, monuments, and concrete seating areas that do not obstruct ocean views and beach access. These items should be placed close enough together to block vehicles, but far enough apart to allow pedestrian, wheelchair and hand-delivery access to the boardwalk on all streets except Navy, Rose, Brooks, Market, 18<sup>th</sup>, Venice Bl, and Washington. Further, the OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA consult the community of Venice and the VNC regarding the use of local art and artists in the design and construction of these Hard Street Closures.

Ron Motion, Gail Second.

3 In Favor  
2 Opposed  
1 Abstain

Public Comments: Stewart Ocsars ---how it is written doesn't make sense.  
Colleen --what streets will be closed?

Board comments:  
Gail-Will there be a statue on my street?

## 4) TEMPORARY BOLLARDS

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA removes the temporary bollards on OFW because they are unsightly, ineffective, broken, and is a pedestrian safety hazard.

Melissa Motion, Ron Second  
6-Favor  
0-Oppose  
0-Abstain

Public Comments:  
Colleen yahoo.  
Gonzo very greasy

Board Comments: unsightly, ineffective, broken and a pedestrian safety hazard.

## 5) SIGNAGE

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA removes the "Dead End", "Road Closed" and "Do Not Enter" signs, and replace them with "Welcome to Venice Beach", "Pedestrians

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Only” and directional signs for parking where appropriate, i.e.

Speedway, because the existing signs are unsightly, unwelcoming, and obstruct the view of the beach.

Ron Motion, Therese Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Nic-Point of Procedure comments

Board Comments: eyesores, obstruction of views of the beach and they are unwelcoming.

Positive reinforcement.

## 6) SECURITY CAMERAS

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA does not install security cameras on OFW, because they are an invasion of privacy, they have historically been poorly maintained, and they would be technologically unfeasible.

Shelley Motion, Therese Second

4 in Favor

2 Oppose

0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Colleen: What is a public address system?

Gonzo: Support security cameras.

Stewart: Why would you not support cameras?

Board Comments:

Ron-This is the best use of money.

## 7) LIGHTING

The OFW Committee supports lighting upgrades as the number one priority of the RAP Assessment, and recommends vast expansion of lighting on OFW, the bike path and Speedway, using green, LED and solar technology as a crime deterrent, safety measure, and to support commerce on the boardwalk.

Gail Motion, Therese Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

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0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Colleen-Yes!

Board Comments:

Shelly-lights on all the time, 24/7 day and night on the boardwalk already why is that? Can we change?

Linda-Police Substation has cameras and they have never been maintained.

## 8) INCREASED LAPD FOOT PATROL

As a result of the OFW Public Safety Town Hall held in October 2013, the people of Venice overwhelmingly agree that the number one issue surrounding safety on OFW is a marked decrease in Police Presence on the boardwalk in recent years, and that LAPD must increase the number of officers on the boardwalk beat, specifically on foot patrol, as there is a dramatic difference in interaction with citizens when officers are on foot, versus in a vehicle of any sort. Further, Police Presence should be 24/7, as nighttime patrol is paramount to safety. Further, "Education", "Community-Style Policing", "Training Specific to the Boardwalk", and "Even-handed Enforcement" of all ordinances, including 42.15, should be the standard. Further, the Police Substation at Windward should be "open and staffed" 24/7.

Gail Motion, Ron Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Board Comments:

## 9) OPEN AND CLEAN ALL PUBLIC RESTROOMS

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA MAINTAIN, CLEAN DAILY and KEEP OPEN ALL public restrooms in the Park DURING PARK HOURS.

Shelly Motion, Ron Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

0 Abstain

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Public Comments:

Colleen: suggested # of Police officers?

Board Comments:

Shelly how they are enforcing and training about the Boardwalk?

## 10) MAINTAIN BIKE PATH

The OFW Committee recommends that the City of LA, in conjunction with the County of LA, maintain the bike path by sweeping sand from the path DAILY, and mitigating sand build-up on the grassy knolls between the path and the boardwalk, as sand on the bike path is a major safety concern.

Melissa Motion, Shelly Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Nic add language on grassy knoll areas.

Board Comments:

## 11) WARN, BAG AND TAG PROGRAM

The Ocean Front Walk Committee recommends that the city of Los Angeles implement a Warn, Bag & Tag program similar to the program currently in use in Downtown Los Angeles for reasons of public safety.

Melissa Motion, Ron Second

6 in Favor

0 Oppose

0 Abstain

Public Comments:

Gary-Great idea

Carl-private money has been raised and Chrysalis is ready to start

Sylvia-Volunteer Storage Program tied into this motion?

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Board Comment: Back and forth on whether to include location and joint motion with Storage program. , ultimately decided not to include either in this motion.

## 12) VOLUNTARY STORAGE PROGRAM

The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends that the City initiate a voluntary storage program at a site to be determined, but not on Ocean Front Walk, with input from the community and LAPD, to provide safe storage for the personal property of un-housed local residents.

Once a storage program is enacted, it will greatly enhance the beauty of OFW and increase the safety for all visitors and will allow the authorities to more accurately decide if unattended property has been abandoned and subject to removal.

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a voluntary storage program to move unsightly piles of property out of the public view and to reduce blight and enhance public cleanliness, public safety and greatly improve the visitor experience on Ocean Front Walk and surrounding areas.

Linda Motion , Ron Second

5 in Favor  
0 Oppose  
1 Abstain

Public Comment:

Gary-I do not want this on Ocean Front Walk for reasons of safety

Board Comment:

Ron- not on Ocean Front Walk

Tom-I won't vote for unless it contains language that the storage container will not be on Ocean Front Walk.

Melissa-Not safe to have storage container with miscellaneous items on Ocean Front Walk.

## **5.) Meeting Adjourned**

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Roll Call		P	NP			P	NP
Thomas Elliott, Chair		P			Gail Rogers	P	
Ron Kramer		P			Therese Dietlin	P	
Matt Moore			NP		Shelly Gomez	P	
Melissa Diner		P					

## Public Safety Committee

PHS Committee Members		Position
Sevan Gerard	NP	Chair
Theresa Haley	NP	Member
Laura Orrico	NP	Member

*In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Groundworks Coffee, 671 Rose Ave.; Oakwood Community Center, 767 California St.; Penmar Park & Rec Center, 1341 Lake St.; The Venice Ale House, 2 Rose Avenue; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: [www.venicenc.org](http://www.venicenc.org), or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Hugh Harrison at [treasurer@venicenc.org](mailto:treasurer@venicenc.org).*

*It's YOUR Venice – get involved!*

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