



# Venice Neighborhood Council

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

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) Phone: 310-421-8627



## **Board of Officers Meeting Agenda** Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium) 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291 **Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 at 7:00 PM**

**BOARD MEETINGS:** The Venice Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. All are welcome to attend.

**TRANSLATION Services:** Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391.

**POSTING:** *In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5 the agenda and non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of regular and special meetings may be viewed at Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd), the Venice Library (501 S. Venice Blvd), and the VNC website (<http://www.venicenc.org>), or at the scheduled meeting. For a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact [communications@venicenc.org](mailto:communications@venicenc.org).*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The public is requested to fill out a "**Speaker Card**" to address the Board on any Old or New Business item on the agenda and the Treasurer's Report. Comments from the public on these agenda items will be heard only when that item is being considered. Comments from the public on other agenda matters or on matters not appearing on the agenda but within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to one (1) minute per speaker, unless modified by the presiding officer of the Board. No new speaker cards will be accepted once Public Comment has begun.

**COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS:** Any action taken by the Board may result in the filing of a related CIS

**DISABILITY POLICY:** See last page.

**ALL AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON THE NIGHT OF THE MEETING.**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call (7:00PM – 1 minute)**  
Thank you to Whole Foods, Abbot's Habit, and Jessica Blumenthal for the food and refreshments. Meeting called in honor of Kristopher Valentine's grandmother, Diane Valentine, born a Venetian and baptized at St. Mark in 1928.
2. **Pledge Of Allegiance (7:01PM -- 1 minute)**
3. **Approval of Outstanding Board minutes (7:02PM – 1 minute)**  
<http://www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/150217BoardMinutes.pdf>
4. **Approval of the Board Agenda (7:03PM – 1 minute)**
5. **Declaration of Ex Parte Communications or Conflicts-Of-Interest (7:04PM -- 1 minute)**  
All Board members shall declare any ex parte communications or conflicts-of interest relating to items on this meeting's agenda.
6. **Scheduled Announcements and Presentations (7:05PM – 73 minutes)**
- A **Public Safety - LAPD Report (5 minutes):** Senior Lead Officers Peggy Thusing (25120@lapd.lacity.org), Kristan Delatori (32914@lapd.lacity.org), Gregg Jacobus, 35162@lapd.lacity.org, Lt. Lydia Leos [23216@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:23216@lapd.lacity.org), OFW Beach Detail Supervisor. Includes a monthly Venice crime report and updates on law enforcement issues in Venice. Intro of Captain Nicole Alberca



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- B Government Reports (15 minutes)** (Representatives have standing place on the agenda, but are not always available to attend)
- City Councilmember Mike Bonin, Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy, [Cecilia.Castillo@lacity.org](mailto:Cecilia.Castillo@lacity.org) (310-568-8772)
  - Congressman Ted Lieu, Representative Janet Turner 310-496-9896 [janet.turner@mail.house.gov](mailto:janet.turner@mail.house.gov)
  - State Senator Ben Allen, Representative Sam Liu 310-318-6994, [samuelliu@sen.ca.gov](mailto:samuelliu@sen.ca.gov)
  - State Assemblyperson Autumn Burke, Rep Odysseys Bostick 310.412.6400  
[odysseysbostick@asm.ca.gov](mailto:odysseysbostick@asm.ca.gov)
  - LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
  - Mayor Eric Garcetti, Westside Deputy, Daniel Tamm, ([Daniel.Tamm@Lacity.org](mailto:Daniel.Tamm@Lacity.org)) 213-978-0836
- C VNC Announcements (5 Minutes)**
- President - Mike Newhouse ([President@VeniceNC.org](mailto:President@VeniceNC.org))
  - Vice President - Marc Saltzberg ([VicePresident@VeniceNC.org](mailto:VicePresident@VeniceNC.org))
  - Westside Regional Alliance of Councils- Mike Newhouse, WRAC President, Marc Saltzberg, VNC Representatives. ([Chair@westsidecouncils.org](mailto:Chair@westsidecouncils.org)),
  - Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) Ivan Spiegel ([Parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org))
  - VNC Representative to DWP: Dede Audet
  - Venice Chamber Of Commerce: Catherine Chevalier, President VCC ([Catherine@notmaurice.com](mailto:Catherine@notmaurice.com))
- D Green Venice Expo Presentation (10 minutes)** (Sylvia Aroth [sylvia.aroth@venicenc.org](mailto:sylvia.aroth@venicenc.org))
- The Outreach Committee will give a wrap-up report on the Green Venice Expo including thank yous.
- E ReCodeLA Presentation (20 minutes)** Sharon Cummins
- Sharon Cummins will present ReCodeLA (<http://recode.la/>) Zoning Code Evaluation Report and comment on next steps (20 min)
- F LUPC Short Term Rental Presentation (7 minutes)** (Robin Rudisill on behalf of LUPC, [Chair-lupc@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Chair-lupc@VeniceNC.org))
- Presentation, including video, by the LUPC Short-Term Rentals Work Group—Education and Awareness
- G California Common Cause (10 minutes)** (Kurston Cook [kurston.cook@gmail.com](mailto:kurston.cook@gmail.com))
- Presentation by policy fellow with California Common Cause to discuss recommended reforms to the LA City matching funds program. Includes a short presentation, with a 6 minute video, and the opportunity for Q&A.



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## 7. **General Consent Calendar (8:18PM -- 1 minute)**

*[All agenda items on the Consent Calendar will pass when the Consent Calendar is approved. No discussion or Public Comment is allowed on any item. Items may be removed by any board member or stakeholder. Removed items will go to the end of the agenda and be treated as regular agenda items with discussion and public comment.]*

### **Keep Sgt Laura Curtin in Venice** Matt Kline [matt.kline@venicenc.org](mailto:matt.kline@venicenc.org)

**MOTION:** Whereas Sergeant Laura Curtin will be promoted to Lieutenant any time now.

And whereas it is standard protocol within LAPD to be transferred when promoted.

And whereas Sergeant Curtin is instrumental to the Venice community with her knowledge of the intricacies of policing Venice Beach and her excellent follow up/responsiveness and commitment to solving the problems we face here.

And whereas Venice needs officers who understand the beat and want to help effect positive change at a critical time here in Venice Beach.

Therefore the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends to keep Sergeant Laura Curtin in Venice Beach as losing her will have a negative impact on the community and the progress made within LAPD in the Pacific Division.

## 8. **Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) Consent Calendar (8:19 PM -- 1 minute)**

*[All agenda items on the Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) Consent Calendar will pass when the LUPC Consent Calendar is approved. No discussion or Public Comment is allowed on any item. Items may be removed by any Board member or Stakeholder. Removed items will go to the end of agenda item 11. Land Use and Planning Committee and will be treated as regular LUPC agenda items, with discussion and public comment.]*

### **A VNC De Minimis Projects**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board recommends approval of the following project as a VNC De Minimis Project:

106 Dudley Ave (Major Remodel of SFD), North Venice Subarea  
R3-1 zone, Land Use Plan designation: Multiple Family Residential--Medium  
DIR-2014-3974-SPP and ENV-2014-3975-CE

Project Description: Major Remodel of existing 1,136 sq ft SFD with the addition of a 1,921 sq ft 1<sup>st</sup> story, 2<sup>nd</sup> story, & roof deck & RAS (32'11"), resulting in a 3,057 sq ft SFD, on a lot size of 3,776 sq ft, with 3-car covered parking, with a roof height of 27'

Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of 3-2-1 (KR/MR)



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## **B Neighborhood Councils “shall monitor City services”**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board recommends that Neighborhood Councils shall monitor City services, as per the City Charter, and Neighborhood Council recommendations shall not be optional but rather shall be treated according to the original intent of the City Charter, and be considered in all determinations, in a “standing” section of all City Staff Reports and Determinations called “Neighborhood Council Recommendation,” with an explanation provided if the recommendation is not being followed.

Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of 6-0-0 (RR/GR)

## **C Change to Coastal Exemption Review/Approval Process/Procedure**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board requests that controls over approvals, transparency of the process and Staff training for both City and State Coastal Exemptions be strongly improved and that copies of the Coastal Exemptions be made immediately available to, or be immediately provided to, the VNC.

Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of (RR/MK)

## **D Interim Control Ordinance for Venice Coastal Zone**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board requests that an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) for the Venice Coastal Zone be drafted by its Land Use & Planning Committee, to be proposed/recommended by the VNC Board to Councilman Bonin and the City Council as soon as possible, in order to assure that development prior to and during the current ongoing coastal planning effort to prepare the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP) does not prejudice, impede or negate the goals and policies of the ultimate certified LCP.

Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of 5-1-0 (RR/MK)

## **E Councilmember Mike Bonin letter to Michael LoGrande re. Mello Act Procedures, including Appeals**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board strongly supports the letter from Councilmember Mike Bonin to Michael LoGrande, dated March 4, 2015, which states in part that “in order to ensure compliance with the Mello Act Interim Administrative Procedures, which state that all Mello Act Determinations be appealable, I request that Planning ensure that all such determinations be processed in a manner that provides an opportunity for appeal. This is an important step in ensuring the City preserves affordable housing in our Coastal neighborhoods.”



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9. **Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (8:20PM -- 10 minutes)**  
*[No more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]*
  10. **Old Business** *[Discussion and possible action]*
  11. **LUPC (8:30PM – 25 minutes)** (Robin Rudisill on behalf of LUPC, [Chair-lupc@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Chair-lupc@VeniceNC.org))  
*[Discussion and possible action]*
- A** **2709 Ocean Front Walk (new SFD), (15 minutes)** North Venice Subarea, RD1.5-1 zone, Land Use Plan designation: Multiple Family Residential--Low Medium II, Dual Permit Jurisdiction Coastal Zone (aka "Appealable Area" post LCP)  
ZA-2014-3072-CDP and ENV-2013-2051-CE and DIR-2013-2050-SPP-SPPA-MEL and DIR-2012-1476-VSO-MEL (6-5-12)  
Applicant: Dan Brunn  
LUPC Staff: Gabriel Ruspini  
<http://www.venicenc.org/2709-ocean-front-walk/>  
CASE NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR CITY HEARING  
Project Description: Construction of a new 3-story, 5,400 sq ft SFD, including 500 sq ft roof deck with roof access structure not to exceed 40' in height, on a vacant 2,502 sq ft, 28' wide lot (demo of formerly existing 1-story, 1,218 sq ft, 1912 structure was approved by Coastal Commission De Minimis Waiver on May 29, 2012, and Mello letter issued by HCID on May 31, 2012), with 3 parking spaces, and Specific Plan Project Permit Adjustment to allow a roof height of 32.95' in lieu of required 30' (including request for 3'1/2" side yards in lieu of 4' required--either need to apply for a SPP adjustment or request a Building Modification during Plan Check, however, a max of 20%, or 3'2 1/2", is avail for bldg. mod, which is 2" short)
- MOTION:** The VNC Board recommends denial of the project as presented as the project does not comply with zoning requirements for side yard setbacks in the RD 1.5 zone; an application has not been filed for a Zoning Administrator's Adjustment to allow a reduced side yard and the Applicant's other option to address the non-compliant side yard, request for a Building Modification, would not result in enough of a modification so as to enable the Applicant to use the current plans (there is a maximum reduction available for a Building Modification of 20%, or 3' 2 1/2 ", which is 2" short of the side yard exception reflected in the current plans); and due to opposition to the project, including its over height variance, from an abutting neighbor.
- Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of 6-0-0 (GR/KR)



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- B** **328 Rennie Ave (3 unit conversion from apartments to condos), (10 minutes)** Oakwood Subarea, RD1.5-1 zone, Land Use Plan designation: Multiple Family Residential--Low Medium II ZA-2014-2373-CDP-MEL and AA-2014-2269-PMLA-CC and ENV-2014-2270-CE  
LUPC Staff: Gabriel Ruspini & Robin Rudisill

Applicant: Heidi Burke

<http://www.venicenc.org/328-rennie-ave/>

CITY HEARING TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015, AT CITY HALL

Project Description: Preliminary Parcel Map for Condo conversion of 3 apartment units, lot area 6,381 sq ft, building 8,234 sq ft (need to determine whether 3 2-bedroom units as per January 7, 2015 Mello letter from HCID OR 2 3-bedroom units & 1 2-bedroom unit as per Community Planning Referral Form; has 10 bathrooms; C of O has not yet been found), with 7 parking spaces.

**MOTION:** The VNC Board recommends denial of the project as presented as it does not adhere to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan for height and for provision of a third Replacement Affordable Unit.

Approved by LUPC 3/3/15 by a vote of 5-0-0 (RR/MK)

- 12. New Business (8:55PM – 30 minutes)**

*[Discussion and possible action]*

- A** **Mandatory Online Voting for Neighborhood Council Elections** (Ivan Spiegel [parliamentarian@venicenc.org](mailto:parliamentarian@venicenc.org)) and (Ira Koslow on behalf of the Rules and Elections Committee)

**MOTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council requests that EmpowerLA NOT implement mandatory online voting for neighborhood council elections. Each Council should have the right to make the decision for itself.





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**B** **Provide Spontaneous Art Opportunities For Young Children** (Joe Murphy (310-305-1444, [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com)) on behalf of Anutosh Ninad (310-562-9035, [ninad@rentart.info](mailto:ninad@rentart.info)) & Christian Bevacqus (310-827-2738, [cb@greentreemeditation.com](mailto:cb@greentreemeditation.com))

**MOTION:** The VNC Board endorses in concept and encourages implementation of the below proposal contained in the **Discussion Forum Committee VNC Vision Goals Idea Matrix**:

Idea	Submitted by Anutosh Ninad (310-562-9035, <a href="mailto:ninad@rentart.info">ninad@rentart.info</a> ) & Christian Bevacqus (310-827-2738, <a href="mailto:cb@greentreemeditation.com">cb@greentreemeditation.com</a> )	Suggested Implementation Strategy	Generated while Brainstorming
<p><u><b>Provide Spontaneous Art Opportunities For Young Children</b></u></p> <p><u><b>JDM Introduction</b></u></p> <p>I recently met Christian Bevacqus (40+ish) &amp; Anutosh Ninad (60+ish) at Abbot's Habit where Ninad made 'art supplies' (paper, painting colors, pens, etc) available to Christian's two daughters (Satya 2.5 &amp; Uma 4.5) &amp; then simply "allowed kids to be free".</p>	<p>This 2-hour/week 'happening' was clearly successful, both because of the unassuming presence of Ninad's 'art supplies' and his 'gentleness' - and also because of Christian's recognition of the value to his kids and his ability to just hang back and 'let it happen'. This environment allowed these two children to enjoy spontaneous creative fun in a safe environment.</p> <p>Ninad teaches kids painting &amp; did so in Japan for 10 years. See his artwork at <a href="http://www.ninadgallery.com">www.ninadgallery.com</a> &amp; his student's artwork at <a href="http://www.ninadcom.blogspot.com">www.ninadcom.blogspot.com</a>.</p>	<p>Ninad &amp; Christian are seeking space where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· young kids can spend 2 hours/ week creating art while making 'messes' .</li> <li>· parents can mingle, gossip &amp; munch.</li> <li>· the kids can post their art so that they can hear all the compliments.</li> <li>· Storage of art supplies &amp; cleaning kids &amp; their messes can be accommodated.</li> </ul> <p>Board endorsement of this concept will give a boost to Ninad's &amp; Christian's efforts to solicit help, refine, expand &amp; implement it.</p>	<p><b>Focus on</b> <b>Children</b> <b>Participation</b> <b>Walkability</b> <b>Diversity</b> <b>Creativity</b> <b>Collaboration</b> <b>Brainstorming</b></p>

**C** **Adoption of SMO Ad Hoc Committee Environmental Report** (Abigail Myers [abigail.myers@venicenc.org](mailto:abigail.myers@venicenc.org))

**MOTION:** The Board shall officially adopt the Environmental report researched and drafted by the SMO Ad Hoc Committee.

LINK: <http://www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/SMO-Report-.pdf>



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**D Support of Budget Advocates White Paper (Ivan Spiegel on behalf of LAANC)**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board shall send a letter to the Mayor’s Office and the LA City Council supporting the Budget White Paper recently presented by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates. The summary of the paper is:

Mayor Eric Garcetti has called for this year’s budget to be organized around five over-arching outcomes:

1. Make Los Angeles the best-run big city in America
2. Promote good jobs for Angelenos all across the city
3. Create a more livable and sustainable city
4. Ensure our communities are the safest in the nation
5. Partner with residents and civic groups to build a greater city

To achieve these goals, the Budget Advocates make several recommendations, including:

1. Redefining our City’s budget processes, practices, and philosophy.
2. Creating 21st century information management systems dedicated to providing integrated and efficient support to stakeholders and facilitating interdepartmental communication.
3. Rebuilding and improving Los Angeles’s infrastructure to higher standards.
4. Streamlining the City’s hiring processes to proactively anticipate future needs.
5. Implementing a citywide collections system to realize uncollected revenue, develop more income sources, and create the permanent position of Inspector General.

Full White Paper at: <http://ncbala.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Budget-Advocates-White-Paper-2015.pdf>

**E Appoint Board Members to Civic University [EXHIBIT]**

**MOTION:** The VNC Board shall appoint two board members (one male, one female) to the Civic University.

**13. Treasurers Report (9:40PM - 3 minutes) (Hugh Harrison on behalf of Budget & Finance Committee, [Treasurer@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Treasurer@VeniceNC.org)) [Discussion and possible action] [EXHIBIT]**

**A MOTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council approves the attached Monthly Expenditure Reports for February 2015.

APPROVED by Budget and Finance Committee 3/2/15 4-0-0





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**14. Board Member Comments on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction (9:43PM - 5 minutes)**

**15. Adjourn (approx. 9:48)**

**List of Venice Neighborhood Council Committees & Chairs – Volunteers Welcome**

Administrative	Mike Newhouse	Communications	Jed Pauker
Arts	Eduardo Manilla	Discussion Forum	Joe Murphy
Budget & Finance	Hugh Harrison	Business	George Francisco
Education	Bud Jacobs	Housing	Abigail Myers, Helen Stotler
Land Use and Planning	Robin Rudisill	Mass/Scale/Character	Sue Kaplan
Neighborhood	Marc Saltzberg	Parking/Transportation	Abigail Myers
Ocean Front Walk	Melissa Diner	Public Safety	George Francisco
Outreach	Sylvia Aroth	Santa Monica Airport	Laura Silagi, Abigail Myers
Rules & Election	Ira Koslow		
Environmental	Abigail Myers, Erin Sullivan-Ward, Barbara Lonsdale		

DISABILITY POLICY: As covered under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Venice Neighborhood Council does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at 213-485-1360 or email [NCSupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCSupport@lacity.org).