



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org

Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627



Board of Officers Meeting Minutes Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium) 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291 Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at **6:30 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: 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* Groundworks Coffee (671 Rose Ave.), Penmar Park (1341 Lake St), Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd), the Venice Library (501 S. Venice Blvd), Oakwood Recreation Center (767 California St.), The Venice Ale House (425 Ocean Front Walk), 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 the VNC secretary at secretary@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 two (2) minutes per speaker, unless modified by the presiding officer of the Board. No new speaker cards will be accepted once Public Comment has begun.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. 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.

****ALL VOTE UNANIMOUS UNLESS NOTED****

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call (6:30PM – 5 minutes)**
Meeting is called to order in memory of Alice Gruppioni and the many people injured on Aug.
A moment of silence will be held to honor those affected in the tragedy.
2. **Approval of the Agenda (6:35PM – 5 minutes)**
ACTION: Item 7E postponed and removed from agenda
Item 10 Moved to Consent Calendar
Agenda approved MS/JS
3. **Approval of Outstanding Board minutes (6:40PM – 5 minutes)**
<http://www.venicenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/130716BoardMinutes.pdf>
ACTION: Minutes approved IK/HH
4. **President's Report (6:45PM 5 minutes)** Linda Lucks president@venicenc.org
 - **Congratulations** to Andi Murez for winning 5 Gold Medals in swimming at the Maccabbeah Games in Israel and winning an award as best all around athlete of the games!
 - **Food Coordinator** - The VNC needs a person or persons to help organize the food for VNC Board meetings.
 - **Report on Venice BBQ** - Congratulations to Chair Barklie Griggs and the entire BBQ Committee and LAFD Station 63 for a great event!



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5. **Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (6:50PM--10 minutes)**
[5 speakers, no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]
Public Comment: Douglas Fay, Westside Impact Project, Dan McNay, Len Judakem, DeDe Audet

6. **Consent Calendar (7:00PM -- 5 minutes)**
[No discussion or Public Comment. Items may be removed and they will go to the end of the agenda]

- A **VNC Photo Contest** Eduardo Manilla on behalf of the VNC Arts Committee
eduardo.manilla@Venicenc.org

MOTION: The VNC Board approves that the Arts Committee shall launch a monthly photo Contest via the social media outlet: INSTAGRAM. The purpose of this contest is to actively maintain the VNC's Social Media while encouraging the participation of the Venice community in an artistic contest.

Every month there will be a photography theme, previously approved by the Arts Committee. The different themes will be related to the culture of Venice. Some of the themes will be: Venice Murals, Venice Sunsets, Venice Nature, etc. Users will have to "Hashtag" each photo so that all competition entries can be bundled together.

A winner will be chosen every month by the Arts Committee and the awarded photograph will be featured through the Social Media, Newsletter and Webpage platforms of the VNC, providing great exposure to the winners.

Each contest will have a length of one month. The contest will start with the announcement of the contest theme at the Arts Committee Meeting. The community will have a whole month to submit their picture(s). The contest will end at the following Arts Committee Meeting when the winning photograph will be announced as well as the new contest theme. The Arts Committee Co-Chairs will provide an update on the contest at every VNC Board of Officers meeting.

- B **Venice Bike Path Improvements** Nick Antonicello nacount@aol.com

MOTION: Whereas, The conditions at the Venice bike path as well as on Ocean Front Walk are being compromised by the sand erosion beneath the collapsing grassy knolls, and Whereas, these knolls are under the responsibility of LA's Department of Parks & Recreation while the bike path is the responsibility of the County of Los Angeles,

Therefore be it resolved, that the the VNC send a letter to Councilman Bonin and to County Supervisor Yaroslovsky asking for collective efforts to solve the sand issue because of the safety concerns for bicyclists as well as pedestrians during the high volume visitation to OFW.



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- C** **VNC Board Response to the NC Plan Review Committee's issue recommendations** Ira Koslow on behalf of REC ira.koslow@venicenc.org
NC Plan Review Recommendations - REC vetted" exhibit giving each of the nine separate topics separate consideration.

MOTION: The VNC supports the NC Plan Review Committees issue recommendations as follows:

1) NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SUBDIVISION ADJUSTMENT POLICIES

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council subdivision/boundary adjustment be amended as follows: A new Neighborhood Council may be created from within the boundaries of an existing Neighborhood Council by the following process:

- a. The subdividing group shall undertake the process for Neighborhood Council formation as already described for new councils.
- b. The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall set an election to take up the question within 90 days of verifying all paperwork is complete.
- c. A majority of the votes cast by stakeholders of the entire original Neighborhood Council shall be required to complete the separation and create a new council.
- d. If an area leaves a Neighborhood Council, the original council should simply be required to adjust its boundaries and board structure and not recertify.
- e. If an area moves between two existing Neighborhood Councils, neither should be required to recertify.

APPROVED BY REC AS WRITTEN. MS/HH unanimous

2) GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council grievances and complaints procedures be amended as follows:

The grievance procedure and the complaint process be merged into one system; that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) establish a single set of procedures with a regional grievance panel empowered to render a final decision on a grievance without further right of appeal, which shall be based on the grievance policy recommendations already made by the Department as reflected in its report dated November 22, 2011, and contained in Council File Number 11-1018.

APPROVED BY REC AS WRITTEN. HH/MS unanimous

3) RULES FOR GOVERNING BOARD SELECTION

Proposed recommendation that The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment look at establishing rules and guidelines for Board selections so that they are more uniform and more open to the public.
NO COMMENT BY REC. HH/MS unanimous

4) ELECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; TERM LIMITS

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council election policies and procedures be reaffirmed or amended as follows:

- a. Reaffirm support for the authority having been returned to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to conduct Neighborhood Council board elections and to partner with the City Clerk for back office administrative services.



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- b. All Neighborhood Councils need to participate in elections or selections at least every two year cycle.
 - c. Existing Neighborhood Council boards are encouraged to partner with other Neighborhood Councils and with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for candidate recruitment and election outreach.
 - d. The City of Los Angeles should not require Neighborhood Councils to impose term limits. It should be left to each Neighborhood Council's discretion.
 - e. There shall be participatory involvement of Neighborhood Councils in reviewing election policies and procedures prior to Neighborhood Council elections.
- APPROVED BY REC AS WRITTEN. MS/HH unanimous

5) BROWN ACT AND POSTING POLICIES

Proposed recommendation that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners reaffirms and/or amends its policies to reflect the following:

- a. Reaffirm support for the Brown Act for Neighborhood Councils and its single accessible 24 hour posting requirement, and reaffirm current board policies regarding electronic mail and website posting, with only one physical posting site as opposed to many. The email requirement shall specify that Board agendas be sent to "NCSupport" with the intent that the Department will post them to the city's agenda system. (Recommended to amend the NCSupport email requirement apply to Board agendas only.)

- b. Neighborhood Councils that do not have a website must post in at least five (5) physical locations.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY REC. MS/HH unanimous

6) DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT GENERAL MANAGER AND BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENTS, AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon the appointment of the Department General Manager and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, and sections which touch upon the formulation of Department rules and regulations be amended to reflect the following:

Neighborhood Councils shall have a formal role in the formulation of rules and regulations as promulgated by the Department and in the appointment of the Department General Manager and the members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY REC. HH/MS unanimous

7) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT (DONE) IN SEC 22.801(J) WHICH CURRENTLY STATES THE "[THE DEPARTMENT SHALL] WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, CREATE AND MAINTAIN AN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK, INCLUDING A CITYWIDE DATABASE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS AND SIMILAR INFORMATION, THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE;"

Proposed recommendation that Sec 22.801(j) of the Administrative Code be amended as follows:

"with the assistance of the Information Technology Agency, create and maintain an internal and external information and communication network that would be available for public use to:

- a. Provide organized access to all current rules, regulations, and election/selection/voting and any other procedures adopted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment,



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- b. Provide organized access to all historic rules, regulations, and election/selection/voting and any other procedures adopted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment that are no longer in force,
- c. Provide organized access to all current legal opinions by the City Attorney on matters relating to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Department rules or regulations, and Department procedures for elections/selections/voting and any other matter,
- d. Provide organized access to all historic legal opinions by the City Attorney on matters relating to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, department rules or regulations, and department procedures for elections/selections/voting and any other matter that are no longer in force,
- e. Provide a Citywide database of existing neighborhood organizations and similar information, sortable by areas and individual Neighborhood Councils;”

APPROVED BY REC AS WRITTEN. HH/MS unanimous

8) DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City’s Administrative Code which touch upon the duties of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners be amended to reflect the following:

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners shall be given the power to require the Department to enforce BONC policies.*

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY REC. MS/HH unanimous

9) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT AND THE BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS

Proposed recommendation that sections of the City’s Administrative Code which touch upon the duties of the Department and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners be amended to reflect the following:

As part of DONE’S “Exhaustive Efforts Program” the Department shall be able to recommend to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners that the board of a neighborhood council be removed prior to having to recommend involuntary decertification.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY REC. MS/HH unanimous

D Approval of Stakeholder Definition Change Ira Koslow on behalf of REC

The VNC already uses the community interest stakeholder definition in its stakeholder ratifications.

[EXHIBIT]

MOTION: The VNC shall send a letter and a Community Impact Statement to the City Council approving the Stakeholder Definition change presented by Councilman Huizar: “The VNC Board recommends that the City Council amend the Administrative Code Section 22.811 (a)(2) and the Plan for Neighborhood Councils to remove the current definition of factual basis stakeholder and substitute with the community interest stakeholder defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the Neighborhood Council boundaries and who may be in a community organization such as, but not limited to, educational, nonprofit or religious.

E Ballona Wetlands Educational Walk Erin Sullivan Ward on behalf of the Environment Committee erin.sullivanward@venicenc.org



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MOTION: The VNC shall sponsor a one day (with the possibility of additional days) educational walk of the Ballona Wetlands guided by the LA Audubon Society. The VNC shall provide press and invite stakeholders and community leaders. The guided walks purpose is to introduce Venetians to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserves.

ACTION: Consent Calendar approved 15-0-1

7. Scheduled Announcements (7:05 PM – 45 minutes)

[No discussion or Public Comment]

A Public Safety - LAPD Report (10 minutes): Senior Lead Officers Peggy Thusing (25120@lapd.lacity.org), Kristan Delatori 32914@lapd.lacity.org ,Gregg Jacobus, 35162@lapd.lacity.org. Lt. Paola Kreeft, Beach Detail (lapdpaola.kreeft@gmail.com *Includes a monthly Venice crime report and updates on law enforcement issues in Venice.*

B VNC Monthly Committee Report: (10 minutes)
[A monthly report on one of the VNC's standing or Ad Hoc committees.]

This month's report will be from the Discussion Forum Committee

C Announce Vacant LUPC Seat and Open Nominations (5 minutes) Ira Koslow
Applications and selection information can be found by at: <http://www.venicenc.org/test-page/>

D Government Reports (10minutes) [Representatives have standing place on the agenda, but are not always available to attend)

- **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, Daniel Tamm, Westside Deputy (Daniel.Tamm@Lacity.org)
- **City Councilmember Mike Bonin**, Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy (310-568-8772); (Cecilia.castillo@lacity.org); Mark Grant (Mark.Grant@lacity.org)
 - **LA Triathlon same day as AK Festival.**
Pacific Sports –714-978-1528

E Ballona Wetlands Presentation (10 minutes) (David Jacobs of UCLA with support from Marcia Hanscom)
Presentation on the history of Ballona Wetlands and how it relates to Venetians.

ACTION: Presentation postponed

8. Public Safety Motions (7:50 -- 40 minutes) (Sevan Gerard on behalf of the Public Health & Safety Committee)

A Temporary Installation of Bollards on Ocean Front Walk (20 minutes)

MOTION: The VNC Board requests that the City of Los Angeles shall temporarily install and maintain flexible control bollards along the west intersection of Speedway and westerly cross



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streets to Ocean Front Walk to provide deterrence to vehicles from entering Ocean Front Walk until the Ocean Front Walk Committee, the Environmental Committee, the Land Use and Planning Committee, and the Public Health and Safety Committee, together, can plan and propose a definitive solution.

ACTION: Motion approved 14-1-3 SG/ESW

B Reevaluation of Ocean Front Walk Policing Strategy (15 minutes)

MOTION: The VNC Board shall send a letter to LAPD Pacific Division requesting that they reevaluate current policing strategy and deployment on Ocean Front Walk to determine whether mobile policing or stationary policing is more effective for visibility, law enforcement and public protection.

ACTION: Motion approved 17-0-1 SG/SK

C Ocean Front Walk Town Hall (5 minutes)

MOTION: The VNC shall hold a Town Hall meeting within the next 60 days to address safety issues on Ocean Front Walk.

ACTION: Motion approved 16-0-2 SG/EM

ADDED: Update on Zipline Project Review – Rachel Metzner of Flightlinez

Public Comment: Kelley Willis, Colleen Soro, Nick Antonicello

9. LUPC (8:30PM -- 80 minutes); Jake Kaufman on behalf of LUPC chair-lupc@venicenc.org

A BevMo! at 4214 S Lincoln Blvd (30 minutes – 5 minutes for applicant, 5 minutes for LUPC Staff, 10 minutes for public comment, 10 minutes for board comment)[EXHIBIT]

MOTION: The VNC Board supports the project as presented, with the following conditions:

- Landscaping plan to conform to the LA City landscape ordinance
- No relief from the Lincoln Blvd. CDO
- No relief from physical on-site parking requirements
- Meeting all alcohol conditions noted in VNC’s LUPC Staff Report

LUPC Motion made by: Jake, SECONDED: Jim Murez

LUPC VOTE: 7-0 Background Information:

<http://cityhood.org/ReportCaseActivityDetail.cncx?CID=32283&UGP=Anonymous>

ACTION: Motion approved HH/MS 14-0-1

B 522 Venice Blvd.;Small Lot Subdivision and Condominiums Revised Application; AA 70870-SLZA 2013-1420-CDP VTT-70870-SL (30 minutes – 5 minutes for applicant, 5 minutes for LUPC Staff, 10 minutes for public comment, 10 minutes for board comment) **[EXHIBIT]**



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DEMOLITION OF ONE MARKET RATE TRIPLEX AND SUBDIVISION INTO 10 SMALL LOT SITES WITH A TOTAL OF 15 UNITS (5 DETACHED SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND 5 DETACHED DUPLEXES PURSUANT TO THE SMALL LOT ORDINANCE)

MOTION: The VNC Board denies approval of this project for the following reasons:

- Applicant has provided insufficient project information to LUPC for this hearing,
- Applicant has a proven record of ignoring community recommendations on this project and has continued to do so with this revised application,
- Project application does not make the first 2 discretionary Findings for Bonus Density Incentive Menu thus invalidating the 35% height increase,
- Applicant is not relieved by Code in Venice of the LAMC requirement for 15 foot front setbacks in the RD1.5-1-0 zone,
- Project has 3 front elevations facing 3 streets, Venice Blvd., Mildred Ave. and Ocean Ave.
- Project has one building elevation lacking any articulation facing Ocean Avenue,
- Project has 9 rooftop access structures which conflicts with VNC motion of 12/7/05 limiting rooftop access structures to one per project,
- No guest parking is provided in a development with 15 dwelling units
- Applicant has presented no evidence of having done a traffic study to assess traffic impacts from project on neighborhood,
- Project consolidating 3 lots into one in a residential zone is in conflict with VZCSP Section 9.A.1.c limiting consolidation to 2 lots in the Southeast Venice sub-area
- Project density, mass and scale are significantly incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood,

LUPC Motion made by: Sarah Dennison SECONDED: Jim Murez LUPC VOTE: 5-0-0

Background information:

<http://cityhood.org/ReportCaseActivityDetail.cncx?CID=32295&UGP=Anonymous>

ACTION: Motion approved 14-0-1 MS/HH

Public Comment: Robin Murez, Dan McNay, Rob Mitchell, Charles Bornsten, Alley Bean, Reagan Kibbee, Max Bean, Kelley Willis

C 1635 Abbott Kinney, Wabi Sabi Case numbers: DIR-2012-80-SPP, ENV-2012-247-CE & ZA-2012-246-CUB (20 minutes – 5 minutes for applicant, 5 minutes for LUPC Staff, 5 minutes for public comment, 5 minutes for board comment) [EXHIBIT]

MOTION: The VNC supports this project as presented, noting:



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1. The only change to the conditions of CUB is a change of hours to remain open to 2am, similar to neighboring businesses.
2. The property is entitled to 14 parking spaces per 1999 CPC. This project as presented to the VNC is for 698 sqft of service floor area, which requires 14 parking spaces.
3. While we realize that [LA City Planning](#) has **failed** to condition recent projects with pollution and noise mitigation measures, the community feels very strong that all new restaurants near residential homes (as this one is) make significant efforts to reduce odor, smoke, and noise, including using “scrubbers”.

MOTION MADE BY JAKE KAUFMAN, SECONDED BY JOHN REED

LUPC VOTE 4-1-0

Background information:

<http://cityhood.org/ReportCaseActivityDetail.cncx?CID=27802&UGP=Anonymous>

ACTION:

Motion to postpone defeated 4-10-1 HH/SK

Motion approved 13-0-2 IK/KV

Public Comment: Elizabeth Wright, Ivan Spiegel

9. **Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (9:50PM -- 5 minutes)**
[5 speakers, no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]
10. **New Business (5 minutes)**
[Discussion and possible action]

Ballona Wetlands Educational Walk Erin Sullivan Ward on behalf of the Environment Committee erin.sullivanward@venicenc.org

MOTION: The VNC shall sponsor a one day (with the possibility of additional days) educational walk of the Ballona Wetlands guided by the LA Audubon Society. The VNC shall provide press and invite stakeholders and community leaders. The guided walks purpose is to introduce Venetians to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserves.

ACTION: Item 10 Moved to Consent Calendar

11. **Treasurers Report (10:00 PM -- 5 minutes);** Hugh Harrison Treasurer@Venicenc.org
[Discussion and possible action] **[EXHIBIT]**

MOTION: The VNC Board approves the attached report on expenditures for the period July 1, 2013, through June 21, 2013, and the monthly EmpowerLA reconciliation report.

ACTION: Motion approved 14-0-1 HH/SG

12. **VNC Announcements (10:05 PM -- 10 Minutes)**
 - **Vice President** Marc Saltzberg (Vicepresident@Venicenc.org)



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- **Westside Regional Alliance of Neighborhood Councils-** Mike Newhouse, WRAC President, Marc Saltzberg, VNC Representatives. Chair@westsidecouncils.org,
- **Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition(LANCC)** Ivan Spiegel, VNC Representative
- **Venice Chamber Of Commerce:** Erin-Sullivan Ward erin.ward@venicenc.org
- **Board Members:** Comments on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction

13. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (10:15PM -- 10 minutes)

[no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]

Public Comment: DeDe Audet, Nestor Lemus, Ivan Spiegel, Elizabeth Wright

14. Adjourn

ACTION: Meeting adjourned @ 10:25PM KV/MS

List of Venice Neighborhood Council Committees & Chairs – Volunteers Welcome

Administrative	Linda Lucks	Santa Monica Airport	Abigail Myers, Laura Silagi
Neighborhood	Marc Saltzberg	Visitor Impact	Joseph Shields, Clabe Hartley
Outreach	Matt Kline	Ocean Front Walk	Tom Elliot,
Budget	Hugh Harrison	Public Safety	Sevan Gerard
Land Use and Planning	Jake Kaufman	Environment	Erin Sullivan Ward, Abigail Myers
Education	Bud Jacobs	Arts	Cynthia Rogers, Eduardo Manilla
Rules & Election	Ira Koslow	Parking & Transportation	Abigail Myers, Erin McMorrow
Communications	Helen Stotler	2013-2014 Elections	Elizabeth Wright, Ivan Spiegel