



Venice Neighborhood Council

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

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



VNC Neighborhood Committee

Minutes of July 27, 2016 Meeting

James Beach, 60 N. Venice Blvd, Venice CA 90291

- 1 . Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. Present were William Hawkins (WH), Matt Shaw (MS), Brian Ulf (BU) and Heidi Roberts (HR).
- 2 .The agenda was approved as presented. (MS, HR; 4-0)
- 3 . Minutes were waived because this was first meeting of committee.
- 4 . There were no Announcements
- 5 . There was no Public Comment
- 6 . Chair introduced himself, thanked and new committee members.
- 7 . Committee members introduced themselves and shared their experiences as committee members and/or reasons to want to be involved on committee.
- 8 . Chair discussed thoughts on scope and vision for committee going forward.
- 9 . Tyler Bazley for Councilman Bonin's office spoke and took questions from the floor.

10 Item for Discussion or Possible Action: Original Motion

Resolution Opposing Use of the Westminster Senior Center for Storage

Whereas, the Councilman of Los Angeles City Council District 11 has introduced a Motion (CF 15-1138 S-8) to convert the Westminster Senior Center at 1234 Pacific Avenue for use as storage for the possessions of persons who are homeless; and

Whereas, this facility is in a public park, and adjacent to an elementary school and scores of residences; and

Whereas, the majority of the residents residing near this facility are opposed to this use; and

Whereas, many parents of children attending Westminster Elementary School are also opposed to this use; and

Whereas, there have been no public hearings on this conversion; and

Whereas, the location criteria of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) includes the following language: *Potential locations for expanded storage and services will be evaluated based on the following: 3. Impact on residential and high-traffic commercial areas;* and

Whereas, no study has been conducted of the impact of the proposed storage use of the Westminster Center will have on park users, nearby residents or students attending the Westminster Elementary School; and

Whereas, **the City of Los Angeles is legally prohibited from this use of the property by a restriction to the property's deed** recorded by the Los Angeles Superior Court on July 5, 1950, which limits the use to public playground and recreation uses, and

Whereas, the proposed use is illegal under recently adopted amendments to Los Angeles Municipal Code 63.44, which state at B. 26 (f):

Removal of Stored Personal Property: Discarding of Stored Personal Property.

(1) *No Person shall Store Personal Property in any Park.*

(2) *All Stored Personal Property remaining in any Park after closing may be removed by the City.*

And,

Whereas, the use of a large storage container at the Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Courts has



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proved the efficacy of using such a container for storage use; and

Whereas, several other options exist for storage which will not impact a neighborhood park, an elementary school and adjacent residents, including the former MTA bus yard, which could be rented by a non-profit such as Chrysalis and out-fitted with containers, and private storage facilities, e.g. Stor It Self Storage at 4068 Del Rey Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292, which is located next to industrial and commercial uses, not a school, park and residences; and

Whereas, enforcement of the new versions of LAMC 63.44 (prohibition of storage in parks) and LAMC 56.11 (limits on storage on sidewalks) will necessitate City storage for abandoned property, prohibited bulky items, and illegally stored property; now

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council opposes the use of the Westminster Senior Center at 1234 Pacific Avenue for use as storage; and

Further, the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the Councilman of District 11 to secure storage facilities at least 300 feet from any residences or parks for the proposed storage use identified in CF 15-1138 S8 and for abandoned and other property acquired by the City under LAMC 56.11 and LAMC 63.44 and when operational to relocate the stored items at the Venice Beach Paddle Tennis Courts to the new location to remove them from proximity to residences and their location in the park, which now violates LAMC 63.44.

10.2 Substitute Motion was introduced and approved (MS.BU, 4-0)

10.3 Motion to Oppose Use of Westminster Senior Center for Homeless Storage *Whereas a Motion (CF 15-1138 S-8) has been introduced to the Los Angeles City Council to convert the Westminster Senior Center at 1234 Pacific Avenue for use as storage for the possessions of persons who are homeless and; Whereas the use of the property was dedicated by declaration by the Los Angeles Superior Court "to such public use for public playground and recreation purposes" on July 5, 1950;*

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council opposes the use of the Westminster Senior Center at 1234 Pacific Avenue for use as storage; and

The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends to Councilman Bonin, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Mayor Eric Garcetti that the use of the Westminster Senior Center remain as originally dedicated "for public use for public playground and recreation purposes" as indicted in the original disposition of the property by the Los Angeles Superior Court on July 5, 1950.

10.4. Public comment was heard.

10.5. Board comment was heard.

10.6. Motion CF 15-1138 S-8 was heard and voted on and passed.
(MS,BU, 4-0)

14. There was no Old Business

15. New Business, Chair discussed the direction of the committee, thanking members and citizens for attending.

16. The meeting was adjourned at exactly 8:00pm.