



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627

Verdant Venice Committee Minutes for Friday, December 6, 2019 The Rose 220 Rose Ave, Venice CA 90291

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM. Present were Noël Johnston, Isabelle Duvivier.
2. The Agenda was approved as presented. (NJ, ID)
3. The Minutes were approved as presented (NJ, ID)
4. There were no Announcements.
5. Public Comment: Kelly Comras from the Pacific Palisades Community Council spoke on how the Palisades had organized their tree strategy and maintenance efforts.
6. Chair report (ID) on yesterday's CFAC meeting:
 - a. Isabelle met with Rachel Malarich the City Forest Officer.
 - b. The City Tree inventory has begun and is focusing on "neediest neighborhoods first". Venice is not yet scheduled.
 - c. Urban Forestry gave a presentation on items including the Sidewalk Repair Program (SRP).
7. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. (ID, NJ/ Amended ID, NJ/ Passed: 2-0-0): **MOTION:** Whereas Venice Way is slated to see three mature trees removed by the City as part of the SRP, and whereas many other trees on the street are in decline and in need of care and maintenance the VVC requests that the VNC write a letter to Adel H. Hagekhalil, General Manager and Director at the Bureau of Street Services adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org and to Stephen DuPrey, Street Tree Superintendant, Urban Forestry Division Stephen.duprey@lacity.org and to Timothy Tyson, Chief Forester, Urban Forestry Division timothy.tyson@lacity.org requesting that a planting concept plan be developed for the entire street before removals, and that the immediate community continue to be involved in the creation of this plan.
 - b. (ID, NJ/ Amended ID, NJ/Passed 2-0-0): **MOTION:** Whereas some mature trees in Venice will need to be removed as part of the SRP, the VVC requests that the VNC write a letter to Stephen DuPrey and Adel H Hagekhalil (see addresses above) and to Timothy Tyson (see address above) requesting that no tree be removed that does not pose an immediate hazard (i.e., a fallen tree) without a block concept planting plan for timely replacement.
 - c. (ID, NJ/ Amended ID,NJ/ Passed 2-0-0) **MOTION:** Whereas Urban Forestry is located downtown making tree planting/tree care difficult in Venice and westside surrounds, and whereas there is a need for a qualified field officer for the care of trees in Council District 11 to attend to this problem, and whereas several City departments including Rec and Parks already have a presence on the westside, the VVC asks that the VNC write a letter to Councilmember Mike Bonin mike.bonin@lacity.org , Public Works Commission President Kevin James kevin.james@lacity.org and to City Forester Officer Rachel Malarich



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Rachel.malarich@lacity.org requesting that Urban Forestry open a field office at a site in or close to, Venice.

- d. Discussion and possible motion for the future: As the City has demonstrated great interest in maintaining and increasing the urban canopy and as current development does not always address that interest or the preservation/inclusion of existing trees in their plans, the VVC suggests that we invite the LUPC chair to our next meeting to determine how best to ensure and encourage owners and developers to keep existing trees where possible and plant new ones. It is our intention to make a motion out of this with the LUPC input.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Overhead lights at Farmers Market; these are said to be low voltage but we would like confirmation from a City official.
 - b. Removal of agroperm, Continued discussion and remedies.
9. New Business and Comments:
 - a. Discussion about how best to deal with 311 requests.
10. Committee Comments: None.
11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 AM.