



# 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

## Verdant Venice Committee

Minutes of January 10, 2020

The Rose 220 Rose Ave, Venice CA 90291

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM.. Present were Noël Johnston (NJ), Isabelle Duvivier (ID).
2. The Minutes from the prior meeting were approved. (ID,NJ)
3. The agenda was approved as presented. (ID,NJ)
4. Announcements: The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance will meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> at Los Angeles City College.
5. Chair report:
  - a. ID reported on the latest CFAC meeting which concerned the Sidewalk Repair Program's EIR. CFAC is reviewing this document and hopes to get experts involved in their response. Concern that EIR as published is already dated.
  - b. ID met with Len Nguyen from Mike Bonin's office and requested 1) an extension for review of the above EIR 2) more active involvement by our Councilperson on canopy issues and 3) a complete review of the EIR and response by the Councilperson.
  - c. There is a currently a City Ecologist named Kate Superfisky who works for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability who we need to contact and reach out to.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. Guest speaker: Shep Stern spoke on the subject of City trees on Venice walk streets.
8. Items for Discussion and Possible Action:
  - a. (ID,NJ/ Amended ID,NJ, Passed 2-0-0). *Background fact: Over 20 years ago the community (under the City's aegis) planted many sycamore saplings along Venice Blvd. The community has benefitted greatly from their presence and they are now fully grown. Some of these trees have been invaded by a pest that most experts feel is Sycamore Borer (not Shot Hole Borer) and this can be alleviated by proper maintenance.* **MOTION: Whereas the sycamores on Venice Blvd are in need of immediate attention to preserve their health and longevity, 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](mailto:adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org), and to Timothy Tyson, Chief Forester, Urban Forestry Division [timothy.tyson@lacity.org](mailto:timothy.tyson@lacity.org), asking that the City remove the agroperm immediately and also emphasize that appropriate measures be taken in a timely manner to improve the adjacent parkway.i.e., enlarge the parkway, do sidewalk repair, replace with decomposed granite, etc.**
9. Old Business: There was no Old Business since a review of prior motions was postponed to a future meeting.



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## 10. New Business and Comments:

- a. The VVC has invited both Jim Murez and Mark Ryavec to attend future meetings. JM will not be able to attend as he has a schedule conflict. MR has not responded to date.
- b. A schedule for tree walks with the VVC was discussed and it was decided that these walks in the micro-neighborhoods should be held twice monthly, if possible, and that they should be described as "Bird and Tree Walks with the VVC". A schedule/flyer for these walks will be posted on the VNC site.
- c. ID suggests that all interested and involved parties review the Safe Sidewalks Draft EIR at this address and forward to others: <https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>. As the review period has to date not yet been extended, this must be done by February 24, 2020.
- d. Committee Comments: The members discussed how best to educate and inform the public on tree issues.

## 11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 AM.