



# 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 Meeting** **Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Friday, February 07, 2020

**Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM

**Meeting Location:** The Rose, 220 Rose Ave., Venice 90291

**Contact:** [noel.johnston@venicenc.org](mailto:noel.johnston@venicenc.org), [isabelle.duvivier@venicenc.org](mailto:isabelle.duvivier@venicenc.org) (Chair email)

1. **Call to Order (9:10 AM) and Roll Call:** Present were Isabelle Duvivier and Noël Johnston. Nick Sundback attended for CD11 (arrived 9:40 AM).
2. **Agenda Approved (ID,NJ).**
3. **Minutes from last meeting approved (NJ,ID).**
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
5. **Chair Report.** ID reported on last CFAC meeting and their concerns regarding the EIR (see below).
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** None.
7. **Items for Discussion and Possible Action:**
  - a. **MOTION: (ID,NJ/ Passed 2-0-0)** Whereas, the Sidewalk Repair Environmental Impact Report (EIR) proposes to allow tree canopy to decrease over 1.5% during 30 years, only reaching 2017 levels again in 2047, and Whereas, the EIR proposes to mitigate tree loss at different ratios during different years of the project in a cynical ploy to only plant the minimum number of trees necessary to return to 2017 levels in 2047 to claim the project will have no impacts, and Whereas, tree canopy is an essential first line of defense against extreme heat days, which will become more frequent during the next 30 years and localized tree loss will result in a dangerous increase in local temperatures, especially on extreme heat days, Therefore, the VVC requests that the Venice Neighborhood Council write a letter before February 24, 2020 to addressed to Environmental Supervisor Shilpa Gupta [Shilpa.Gupta@lacity.org](mailto:Shilpa.Gupta@lacity.org) and copying Councilmember Mike Bonin [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org), Public Works Commission President Kevin James [kevin.james@lacity.org](mailto:kevin.james@lacity.org), General Manager and Director Bureau of Street Services Adel H. Hagekhalil [adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org](mailto:adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org) and Chief Forester/Urban Forestry Division Timothy Tyson [timothy.tyson@lacity.org](mailto:timothy.tyson@lacity.org) insisting that 1) all trees removed for the sidewalk repair program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with species of equal size at maturity and located in the same neighborhood as those removed, 2) the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with binding mitigation measures, and 3) only those trees absolutely necessary to be removed for sidewalk repair be removed, with no pre-emptive removal of trees not causing problems, and every reasonable effort made to redesign sidewalks around trees.



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- b. Background fact:** *The Bureau of Street Services and the Urban Forestry Division have recently opposed the removal of removal of 6 healthy and mature Indian Laurel Ficus trees in the nearby CD 11 community.*

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/councilagenda/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=102453&MeetingID=5510> **MOTION: (ID,NJ/ Passed 2-0-0)** Whereas the VNC supports all efforts by

the City to retain mature trees wherever possible as a component of intelligent and forward thinking city planning, the VVC requests that the VNC write a letter to Mayor Eric Garcetti [eric.garcetti@lacity.org](mailto:eric.garcetti@lacity.org), Councilperson Mike Bonin [mike.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:mike.bonin@lacity.org), and Commissioner Kevin James [kevin.james@lacity.org](mailto:kevin.james@lacity.org) emphatically supporting and commending the actions of Adel H. Hagekhalil, General Manager and Director of the Bureau of Street Services and Timothy Tyson, Chief Forestry Officer, Urban Forestry Division on their efforts to protect and preserve our urban forest and therefore the City ecosystem itself.

## 8. Old Business.

- a. The VVC understands that motion letters have not been written by the VNC to the intended recipients. The VVC intends on composing letters and sending them to the VNC to sign and send.

## 9. New Business

- a. Reviewed the information sheet on RAP trees planted from 2014 to date.  
<https://www.laparks.org/trees-planted>.
- b. Discussed the possibility of going to other Neighborhood Councils (Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista, Del Rey, Mar Vista, West LA/Sawtelle, f.i.) to draw attention to the ramifications of the existing EIR.
- c. Scheduled new VVC Walk for February 16, 2020.

## 10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS – No comments.

## 11. The meeting was adjourned approximately 10:40 AM