



Venice Neighborhood Council

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

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

Venice Arbor Committee (VAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, March 12, 2021

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Contact: noel.johnston@venicenc.org, isabelle.duvivier@venicenc.org (Chair email)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Noel Johnston (Co-Chair)		Present	
Isabelle Duvivier (Co-Chair)		Present	
Mark Ryavec		Present	
Sarah Wauters		Present	
Barry Campion		Absent	
		Ira Koslow (ex-officio)	

2. Approved Agenda as presented or amended – moved and seconded (SW/ID).
3. Approved Minutes from December 4, 2020 meeting were approved – moved and seconded (SW/MR).
4. Sarah Wauters elected as Chair, no objections raised, unanimous approval (NJ, ID, MR voted for, SRW abstained). Sarah Wauters to replace Noel Johnston.
5. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Two new members have joined the VAC: Barry Campion and Sarah Wauters.
6. Chair Report. Isabelle gave a report on last week’s Community Forest Advisory Committee meeting. (CFAC is a group that advises and liaises to the City of Los Angeles, Public Works). Intro and policy and recommendation re: the billboard conflicts with trees. They sent a recommendation for new protected trees and the city added 2 new tree species. It was noted that the Fire Department had no information re: protected trees and the fire lanes that FD recommended to homeowners did not state that protected trees should not be removed. CFAC wrote letter that the City should increase tree budget from .25 and 1% of the City budget. Public Works is really listening to CFAC. It’s scheduled to be on PW commission meeting. They are hoping for support.
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agendized items related to Venice Arbor Committee only.
 - a. Member of the public, Paola Pini, thanked the Committee for all the help given her group allowing them to have success at 1900 Penmar, 4 trees, golf course and the area and planting of more mature trees at Penmar park. Paola Pini asked about SB9 and SB10 wanted to see what the LUPAC did regarding this. It will reduce the green space b/c no limit on developers. Paola wishes to oppose.
8. Items for Discussion and Possible Action:



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- a. **Motion Passed: "The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the Community Forest Advisory Committee's position letter calling for an increase in the percentage of the city's overall budget allocated for support and development of the city's tree canopy from .25% to 1%, starting with the city's 2021-22 budget, and following adoption of this Motion it shall be sent to City Councilman Paul Krekorian, Chair, City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, Councilman Mike Bonin, and Mayor Eric Garcetti." The committee unanimously voted for the motion to be sent to the VNC Board. All members in attendance voted for SW, NJ, ID, MR. No opposition and no public comment.**
- b. **Reviewed nine different suggestions for goals and prioritized which items should be acted upon first in 2021.**
- c. **Motion Passed: Whereas our past mission statement was agreed to be misleading, therefore we agree to change our mission statement to the following. Two amendments were made and approved. All members in attendance voted for SW, NJ, ID, MR.**

The Venice Arbor Committee ~~(formerly known as Verdant Venice Committee)~~ supports and encourages the planting and maintenance of trees throughout the Venice Neighborhood and surrounding communities through advocacy, education and policy work. We work with the City and their planting partners, residents, schools, developers, non-profits and other stakeholders to create, improve, and care for the tree canopy, **support and improve** local biodiversity, and a healthy ecosystem. We actively enlist and encourage the local citizenry to engage in planting and caring for their own yard and parkway trees and help educate individuals on how to accomplish this.

9. New Business:

- a. **Gas powered leaf blowers. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance has made a flyer about how to communicate with gardener about gas and AQMD has rebate to exchange. Committee and public participants discussed and made suggestions about how to approach the public with the flyer.**

10. COMMITTEE COMMENTS – Comments by Committee Members on subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Verdant Arbor Committee but not on the Agenda. None.

11. ADJOURNED: 2:30pm



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