



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 Agenda

Meeting Date: Friday, June 21, 2021, 1:00-2:30 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Contact: isabelle@idarchitect.com, sarahwauters123@gmail.com (Chair email)

Please use the following information to join the meeting:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: May 21, 2021, 01:00 PM Pacific Time (the US and Canada)

Topic: Venice Arbor Committee

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Sarah Wauters, Co-Chair (SW)			
Isabelle Duvivier, Co-Chair (ID)			
Mark Ryavec			
Noel Johnston			
Barry Campion			
		Ira Koslow (ex-officio)	

- 2. Approve Agenda as presented and amended. Noel motion to approve and Sarah.**
- 3. Approved Minutes from April 2, 2021 meeting as approved or amended. Sarah and Isabelle.**
- 4. Chair Report. ID - Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) update, including board meetings, and City budget. (CFAC is a group that advises and liaises to the City of Los Angeles, Public Works).**
 - Sidewalk Repair Lawsuit - report on EIR for sidewalk repair – took three years, released last Friday, city only gave public 2 weeks to comment, (city?) voted to approve EIR anyway. CFAC complaints included that the EIR neglected impact on wildlife, was based upon incomplete data, didn't include loss of other trees, assumed a tree is mature at 15 yrs, and didn't adequately address the alternatives, among other items.
 - Evisceration of the Mullholland Blvd



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_____. The planning Director Vince Bertoni, produced a memo, said that the board will no longer need to see any project that does not directly touch Mulholland Blvd. CFAC quietly paying attention. 3. Budget – wildlife staff to be supported – added 2 people – Koretz agreed to fund Kate _____ (?) Designing guidelines how to develop projects. Max height fence, low lighting. New pruning crews, etc. 123 new positions in budget. Rachel got an environmental planner, staff member to review EIRs. Robin suggesting to spray the Jacaranda trees as public education. Skysource – David Herz – where is the collector. CFAC policy committee – release of street tree species list it's coming from Rachel.

- 5. **Chair Report. SW - Pasadena Ordinance, if passed in Los Angeles, could offer ways to protect trees in Los Angeles. Consider Palo Alto disclosure form and the practical effect of both requirements. Report on VAC's participation in the upcoming elections. Simple to get NC to pass motion to put into the planning land use. Robin Rudicill Ally Bean. Contact Andy Lipkis. David Herz – connect with or be on the committee. Contact other neighborhood councils. What about Santa Monica protective tree ordinance? Working on a private property protective tree ordinance for several years – but new state legislation re:**
- 6. **PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agendized items related to Venice Arbor Committee only. Verdant Venice Group report – Agroperm removed only 2 more work days mulched, watered. Maintenance and plant trees for PK management, educational effort to get homeowners and interested neighborhoods to start up – John Castio – block. EVNA Emiko Kuwata handed in 21 new people Robin recommends get the news out to the – master gardeners at Westminster and Venice High. Get the news out. Other groups around Venice. Give the info to the communications officer of VNC. Sima Kostowski.**

MOTIONS - MOTION: Whereas State Assembly bill 672 is on the Assembly agenda for early in 2022 and whereas this bill would effectively remove the protections of the Public Park Preservation Act from all public golf courses in the State of California, opening them to development and setting a dangerous precedent for other parks and whereas Penmar Golf Course would be one of these courses, therefore the Venice Arbor Committee asks that the VNC write a letter to Mayor Garcetti requesting that, in the best interest of its citizenry and to preserve the protections of all recreational parks in the City, a letter be written by him to Assemblywoman Autumn Burke, requesting that she vote against this bill.

The bill should be attached in supporting documents and perhaps the SCGA article attached as well.

MOTION: Whereas Mayor Garcetti has instigated a Green New Deal for Los Angeles involving the planting of 90,000 trees by the end of 2021 and whereas this has been deemed a priority in insuring the City's continued habitability and health and whereas Venice continues to lose tree canopy due to indifferent land use approvals for new construction and development, the Venice Arbor Committee requests that the VNC send a letter to _____ - and _____ insisting that the City use the simple, one page, Tree Disclosure Statement now successfully in use by the City of Palo Alto for all future development in the City of Los Angeles starting immediately.

- 7. **Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion - Overarching Goals of VAC:**
 - a. Proposal – Bird's Eye View - to create a Green Coastal Corridor map to show the green areas and the potential green areas of the entire Coastal Area, comprising the Santa Monica Mountains down to Ballona Wetlands. Goal is to create green pathways for wildlife to utilize



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and in effect also create greater urban canopy throughout. Isabelle to elaborate. *I need to send the map of ballona wetland that Isabelle did as an example. Isabelle explains her work on the ballona map. Noel feels that trees need to be the focus to stay on in this mapping exercise. Barry – missed opportunity the area that includes Penmar, marine park, linked in some way – tree planting to be coordinated – its an existing green area that could be enhanced. There is an unfortunate state bill – SB – they want to remove the parks protection and funding for golf courses so that municipalities can convert to housing. AB 672 look at the golf association. Isabelle thinks we need to find out more information.*

- b.** *Start locally with parkways – planting and point to a success – Robin thinks that the parking lot project is a very important – and in the parkways – we should be able to point – Robin has trailer. Michael – Christina Garcia, assembly woman, introduced the AB 672. Robin thinks soooo wrong – we need the green space. Councilmember – need to adamantly oppose getting rid of open space. Need to unified in that voice. Michael will find out the status of AB 672 – how realistic is it that this will pass? Michael will check with his lobbyist. We need to go to our assemblywoman – Autumn Burke.*
Isabelle adding – Verdant Venice Group – two groups in Mar Vista – Mar Vista Arbor Group, Mar vista Westdale Group.
Big Concept – need to do a bigger picture so that in certain areas, we plant a more riparian tree, plant trees that are not necessarily on the city list.
Kate – community plan is a big wishlist. Does have a whole design land use element. These things require landscaping on parking lots etc. but there's no accountability.
Barry – proposal – Rachel working on it – requirement to plant a tree in the parkway. Low hanging fruit.
- c.** Large open paved areas – Whole Foods, Ralphs, and other large areas would be incorporated into the above overarching plan. Noel to report on her activities.
- d.** Education of Public regarding trees – website, signage, outreach to all communities to enlist in caring for trees over a long, dry, summer.
- e.** Protection of private property trees – legislation based on either Palo Alto – tree disclosure form requires that they swearing – good tool - on permit and on plans. or Pasadena up to the city council offices? *Robin suggesting that each developer, before LUPC must come to tree committee first before they can get their project through, disclosure form, must come to us before going to LUPC. Whomever is the new chair should probably support. She supports the disclosure form that shows on the plans on the property plans. A member staff reports are very meager. First hurdle would to require the disclosure as part of the staff report.*
- f.** Metro Bus Depot.
- g.** Coeur d'Alene Tipu Trees – Agreed to Table for next meeting.



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8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

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