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JDM thoughts re future of DFC

1 message

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To: DFC - Joe Murphy - VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair <joedmur@gmail.com>, "DFC - Joelle Dumas - Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine (Kristen, Marie, Gwendoline, Karen)" <bonjour@laclairefontaine.org>, DFC - Paul Davis - Parent & Architect <davis@pauldavisarchitects.com>, DFC - Mehrnoosh Mojallali - Architecture/Urban Design <mehrnoosh@mehrnoosh.com>, "DFC - John M. Palka - Christ Lutheran Church Ministries" <palka.john@gmail.com>, DFC - Regan Kibbee - Co-moderator of Venice Moms <regank777@gmail.com>
Cc: Robin Murez <robin@robinmurez.com>, Sandy Bleifer - Artist and Social Activist <sandy@sandybleifer.com>

Hi DFC members - some of my thoughts for tonight's meeting that I have shared with Paul & Joelle plus Paul's work on an interesting MATRIX which may help us in our discussions tonight and moving forward.

I've been thinking about the future of the DFC and it's been a struggle.

I've attached a few LA Times articles which have a bearing on what follows.

With the VNCs adoption of the Tiny Homes and Permanent Housing motions, I feel like we have now hit a 'brick wall' beyond which it is realistically unrealistic to think the DFC can go. The first of the three attached LATimes articles summarizes my thinking on this and illustrates what is, in my mind, that 'brick wall'. Neither the DFC nor the VNC has the power to go beyond it.

This is my central frustration since I see the 'big picture' and feel helpless at our lack of the political influence needed to address the inherent systemic sources of the wealth gap and it's historic causes of racial and ethnic discrimination. I can't stomach the impact of this on the families which have been cornered into these dysfunctional communities and how this inherently affects their children who will inherit and continue that mix of dysfunctionality. It doesn't help to observe that 'some will somehow manage to escape it' when my gut tells me that 'most will not'.

So I ask myself 'what is left that the DFC can do', and 'what is the value of the VNC' whose power is similarly limited? And I emphasize 'that the DFC can **do**', not 'that the DFC can **oppose**' - I want to be part of a committee that is **constructive**.

Robin Murez's Venice Flying Carousel motion can be characterized as a motion based on the **Focus on Children Vision Goal** and in that manner distinguishable from all other VNC committees. The same can be said of the motion we made supporting the funding of education some time ago since there was then no longer a VNC Education Committee - nobody was willing to chair it and it died.

What if we were to make a motion to reduce parking requirements or to widen sidewalks while narrowing streets to encourage pedestrianism based on the second and third attachments below? That could be characterized as a motion based on the **Walkability Vision Goal**. But would it be classified by the Administrative Committee as somehow 'belonging' to the Parking and Transportation Committee? But regardless of how these efforts might be characterized, neither seems to be of value in addressing the 'big picture' problem of homelessness and the dysfunctional communities based on the **Diversity Vision Goal** - and that, to me, is my central frustration.

The **Vision Goals** are supposed to be applied by all VNC committees - whether *Standing* or *Ad Hoc* - and they are based on **integration**, not **isolation**. In practice, however, I feel they are ignored - except by the DFC. The recent attempt to 'narrow its focus' was difficult for me to 'stomach', and the factional divide on the VNC is focused as always on land use which is at the core of the segregation history which created the wealth gap and the dysfunctional communities.

If you dig through the various links to **research** on the DFC website at <https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/discussion-forum-committee>, you will find numerous additional examples of DFC/VNC directions that none of the other VNC committees can or will address. I'd have to spend a lot of time to dig them out, but I know they're there.

See you this evening!

Sincerely,

Joe

6 attachments

 **211127LATimesOpEd-ErikaDSmith-BanHomelessEncampmentsEverywhere-ItMightHaveMoreSupportThanLiberalsThink.pdf**
323K

 **211121LATimes-DavidGarrick-SanDiegoAdoptsNewPolicyWipingOutParkingRequirementsForManyBusinesses.pdf**
258K

 **211123LATimesEditorial-LATrippedOverItsDutyToFixTheCitysBrokenSidewalks.pdf**
254K

 **211124LATimes-GabrielSanRoman-DevelopersEyeRevampOfBuenaParkMallByAddingResidentsToRetail.pdf**
487K

 **211129DraftMatrixPreparedByPaulDavisForDFCMtg.pdf**
484K

 **211129DiscussionForumCommitteeMeeting-Agenda.pdf**
335K