**Venice Arbor Committee Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2022**

**Meeting Date: Friday ,May 27th, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Pacific Time**

**Meeting Location: Webinar online zoom meeting**

**Contact: isabelle@idarchitect.com,** [**sarahwauters123@gmail.com**](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com)

1. Call to Order at 11:35 after technical difficulties with official Zoom link.
2. Roll Call. Present: Chairs: SW, ID. Members: BC, NJ, and subsequently MR.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sarah Wauters,Chair (SW) | X |  |  |
| Isabelle Duvivier Chair(ID) | X |  |  |
| Mark Ryavec (MR) | X |  |  |
| Noel Johnston (NJ) | X |  |  |
| Barry Campion (BC) | X | Jim Murez (ex-officio) (JM) |  |

1. Approve Agenda as presented (IS/SW). Approve prior Minutes (SW/IS).
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – non-agenda items related to Venice Arbor Committee only. None.
3. Reports and Committee changes:
   1. Chair Report – SW: Watershed Schools Symposium as relates to Venice Skills Center.
   2. Chair Report – ID: Urban Forestry’s choice of non-native trees for 59 sites in Venice despite Varb recommendations. 14 trees out of 59 were native trees.
   3. VVG Report – NC: Various locations had trees planted and mulched in the last month including Flower and Dog Park. Assisted Mar Vista Gardens efforts. Concern about pruning at 1600 S. Irving Tabor Ct (parking lot 760) by LADOT.

d. Committee changes: ID resigns as co-chair but stays as member. Michael McGuffin nominated as member and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – CHAIR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS ON PROGRESS

1. Lincoln Fast Forward – Chair Report on passage of the Green Architecture Plan put forward by Transportation and Parking Committee. This item will be sent onto the city councilman’s office as well as various department’s within the city government
2. Venice Blvd. West of Lincoln – status update – Kiss the Ground possible partnership, Kiss the Ground suggested getting businesses to sponsor that median, signage, get the watering fixed, need $$ to hire landscaper to fix irrigation, plants, mulching. Should we pass a Motion to put up to VNC? No motion suggested as of this time.
3. Community Improvement Grant (Venice Skills Center parkways) applied for but our application as too late. We intend on submitting in the next fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS – BIODIVERSITY DAY!!

1. Native planting – Charles spoke about the importance of Native Planting and discussed his motion and the breadth of it as the strategy chosen.
   1. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion Public comment.
   2. Public Comments on native median plantings for other than trees.
   3. Public comment on urging City to plant only native trees in public spaces.
   4. Committee discussion including a suggestion that we consider broadening our mission statement to include native plants.
   5. MOTION: We propose the following motion be approved by the Venice Neighborhood Council:

See next page for two options. NOTE: It was decided in the meeting that only OPTION 2 should be considered and voted upon with changes as determined in the meeting.

**~~OPTION 1: CFAC and Palms NC language combined~~**

**~~Whereas~~** ~~Los Angeles faces a biodiversity crisis wherein over 90% of local butterflies, songbirds, and other pollinators have disappeared in the last century due to the replacement of local flora with non-native plant and tree species;~~

**~~Whereas~~** ~~Los Angeles is within a floristic region that is noted as a Biodiversity Hotspot;~~

**~~Whereas~~** ~~over the last several years the City of Los Angeles has invested in a Biodiversity Initiative;~~

~~and has committed to no loss of biodiversity;~~

**~~Whereas~~** ~~the City Council has instructed every department to incorporate biodiversity into their practices;~~

**~~Whereas~~** ~~the current proportion of native trees in the city’s public right-of-way is 3%,~~

**~~Whereas~~**~~if every empty parkway tree well (currently 165,191) were filled with native species, that would bring the overall native tree cover from 3% to 29%;~~

**~~Whereas~~** ~~native plants and trees can thrive in our urban environment and provide all the benefits non-native trees offer in terms of canopy shade to offset the heat island effect, beauty, and shade comfort for humans, while providing a path to sustainability for biodiversity, water and energy savings, and elimination of soil amendment runoff pollution,~~

**~~Therefore~~**~~, we propose the following:~~

**~~Motion~~** ~~to request StreetsLA and Urban Forestry Division, as well as all applicable government agencies within the County and City of Los Angeles, to commit to discontinue the practice of planting non-native landscaping plants and trees except in situations where plants and trees are designed to produce food or provide a designated recreational playing field, and henceforth these same parties only plant 100% California native landscaping plants and trees within Los Angeles County and City, and specifically within the stakeholder area of the Venice Neighborhood Council district.~~

**OPTION 2: Original Palms NC Language**

**Whereas** Los Angeles faces a biodiversity crisis wherein over 90% of local butterflies, songbirds, and other pollinators have disappeared in the last century due to the replacement of local flora with non-native plant and tree species;

**Whereas** native landscaping plants and trees can thrive in our urban environment and provide all the benefits non-native trees can offer in terms of canopy shade to offset the heat island effect, beauty, and shade comfort for humans, while providing the only path to sustainability for biodiversity, water and energy savings, and elimination of soil amendment runoff pollution,

**Therefore**, the Venice Neighborhood Council appeals to the County and City of Los Angeles, all applicable government agencies, public-private partnerships, and private parties planting in public space to discontinue the practice of planting non-native landscaping plants and trees except in situations where plants and trees are designed to produce food or provide a designated recreational playing field, and henceforth these same parties only plant 100% California native landscaping plants and trees within Los Angeles County and City, and specifically within the stakeholder area of the Venice Neighborhood Council district.

**OPTION 2: Original Palms NC Language (as amended, underlined)**

**Whereas** Los Angeles faces a biodiversity crisis wherein over 90% of local butterflies, songbirds, and other pollinators have disappeared in the last century due to the replacement of local flora with non-native plant and tree species;

**Whereas** native landscaping plants and trees can thrive in our urban environment and provide all the benefits non-native trees can offer in terms of canopy shade to offset the heat island effect, beauty, and shade comfort for humans, while providing the only path to sustainability for biodiversity, water and energy savings, and elimination of soil amendment runoff pollution.

**Therefore**: the Venice Neighborhood Council appeals to the City of Los Angeles, all applicable government agencies, public-private partnerships, and private parties planting in public space to discontinue the practice of planting non-native landscaping plants and trees except in situations where plants and trees are designed to produce food or provide a designated recreational playing field, and henceforth these same parties only plant 100% California native landscaping plants and trees within Los Angeles City, and specifically within the stakeholder area of the Venice Neighborhood Council district; and the VNC further appeals to the City of Los Angeles to request the County of Los Angeles and its agencies to establish the same or similar policy.

**MOTION Amended** 5-0-1, **Passed** 5-0-1

1. Door hangers.
   1. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion. It was agreed that we should come up with a sample door hanger for neighbors re: tree trimming practices.
   2. Public comment. The public is not aware of best tree trimming practices.
   3. Committee discussion. Several members will collaborate on this.
   4. Motion to be delayed until we have a mock-up door hanger.
2. Application for Community Improvement Funds from VNC – turned in this week. Pass a motion to apply for next fiscal year in the event that our present application is unsuccessful:
   1. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion
   2. Public comment
   3. Committee discussion
   4. Motion

OLD BUSINESS

1. A and B permit issue. Discuss in future meeting.
   1. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion
   2. Public comment
   3. Committee discussion
   4. Motion
2. Tree trimming practices – see 2 above. We will discuss in another meeting.
   1. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion
   2. Public comment
   3. Committee discussion
   4. Motion
3. Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration – None.
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.
5. ADJOURN: 1:40 PM

Next Varb meeting Friday June 17, 2022 at 11:30 AM.