



# 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

## Venice Arbor Committee (VArb) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 12, 2023

Meeting Time: 12:00 PM Pacific Time

Meeting Location: Rose Cafe, 220 Rose Ave, Venice, CA 90291

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

### AB 361 Updates -

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

### PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS:

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the Venice Branch Library at our website: <https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/venice-arbor-committee> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Sarah Wauters at [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).

### Public Posting of Agendas -

Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Venice Branch of LA Public Library
- [www.NeighborhoodCouncilWebsite.com](http://www.NeighborhoodCouncilWebsite.com)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS)

### (Brown Act Required Language): Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

Public comment will be limited to one comment for 60 seconds per item.

- Please do not raise your hand more than once per item
- Raise your hand at the start of the items you want to speak on. We will then close public comment and announce the last person to speak a few minutes after the start of the item.
- No ceding your time to others will be allowed
- The meeting is being video and audio recorded.
- The public will be able to listen and speak but their video will be disabled.

Sarah Wauters, Chair (SW)	P	Michael McGuffin	P
Isabelle Duvivier	P	Noel Johnston	P
Mark Ryavec	P	Barry Campion	X
		Jim Murez (ex-officio)	X

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. No comment on minutes nor adopted.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments from the public included discussion of a report on the removal of ficus trees in Santa Monica. It was proposed that all tree removal should include all tree removal to be done only by licensed contractors or certified arborists - they must themselves check the permit, or they will be held responsible. 2) We need a certified arborist program.

### 5. Reports

- a. Chair Report – No report in the interest of time.
- b. Report from CFAC Isabelle Duvivier – CFAC has had meetings with CD11 rep. Diana Kitching about the tree disclosure form by planning department, and Randal Wilson deputy mayor of infrastructure – deputy mayor of sustainability, Nancy Sutley. Melanie Winter gave presentation regarding curb cuts to allow infiltration into soil areas. Let's make a note about areas where the water floods and where a curb cut can utilize the water. Mark Ryavec asked was there a plan to water the strip between boardwalk and the Venice/Rose beach parking lot.
- c. VVG Report – Noel Johnston gave report about the activities of VVG.



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## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider New Tree Guidelines, similar to the UNNC Tree Guidelines for Motion, to be presented to VNC / LUPC. Please see UNNC GUIDELINES posted on VNC Website – Janin will do a Google Doc that will put the changes to the UNNC into the doc.
  - i. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion –
  - ii. Public comment: Two members of the public showed unqualified support for the canopy. Patrick McGovern – says we need to show the canopy as the thing we are saving that will have the positive impact.
  - iii. Need a drone photographer to show us the canopy.
  - iv. Committee discussion - MR offers to take 5 – 8 items to be turned into firm legislation.
  - v. Motion – Passed:

Venice Arbor Committee moves to adopt a recommendation that the VNC board adopt the tree guidelines, as attached hereto, at the earliest possible date to be transmitted to the CD11 office, and mayor's office, and appropriate city department officials, for consideration for later translation into legislation. Mark Ryavec moved, Isabelle Duvivier seconded. Call for a vote was Unanimous – Mark Ryavec, Michael McGuffin, Noel Johnson, Isabelle Duvivier, Sarah Wauters.

- b. Consider Motion to tighten up the penalties against violators of the ordinances regarding the removal and damage to city trees. See the draft motion on the VNC website. MR offered to draft the proper motion to address this broader issue.
- c. Consider Actions to be taken to inform the City, Coastal Commission, Planning and/or Building and Safety about the violation regarding the Sycamores recently destroyed on Venice.
  - i. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion –
  - ii. Public supported and discussed the motion presented by the PPP.
  - iii. Committee discussed whether we should alter the motion to be less punitive and decided to pass motion in form of PPP motion.
  - iv. Motion – Passed:

MOTION RE: DESTRUCTION OF FOUR PUBLICALLY-OWNED MATURE TREES  
At Venice Blvd. and Lincoln Blvd. 90291

Whereas trees reduce Carbon Dioxide in the environment, eliminate dust in the atmosphere, reduce traffic noise, retain and filter water in the soil, provide shade which cools the city, provide homes to the myriad birds and creatures essential to biodiversity and beautify our urban environment; and

Whereas the owner and or developer/contractor/construction company of the House of Pies construction site has removed and destroyed 4 mature trees from City of Los Angeles property at the southwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevard, which constitutes a prominent entry into the Venice Neighborhood, without obtaining a permit and in contradiction to representations made to the VNC;

Whereas these trees were 30 years old, of substantial size and installed, tended and watered by Venice community members in conjunction with the City, State and non profit organizations including Tree People with our tax dollars and grant funding;

THEREFORE:

The Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the city cause the proper enforcement agencies, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Building and Safety, the Coastal Commission any other relevant agency, to levy fines against this developer that are sufficient to replace the trees 2 to 1 with 48" box Sycamores, including removal of stumps, enlargement of the tree wells, widening of the sidewalk and maintenance of the trees to maturity (10 years). Such developer's certificate of occupancy should be withheld until the completion of the planting of the new trees is fully accomplished.

Venice Neighborhood Council shall distribute this motion to the following offices:



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Mayor  
Deputy Mayor  
The Los Angeles City Attorney  
Traci Park – CD11  
The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Department  
The California Coastal Commission  
LA County Sheriff  
The Department of Public Works  
Los Angeles Police Department – Pacific Division

Mark Ryavec moved, Isabelle Duvivier seconded. Call for a vote Unanimous – Mark Ryavec, Michael McGuffin, Noel Johnston, Isabelle Duvivier, Sarah Wauters. 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- d. Submit for a VNC community grant, for funding of another water pig and to pay labor to water once a week.
    - i. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion – Round of funding in JUNE – VNC will get more money – volunteer to get support to get help with watering the trees. Purchase a new watering trailer. Janin and Isabelle will draft a grant from VNC community grant.
    - ii. Public comment
    - iii. Committee discussion
    - iv. Motion
  - e. Tree Walks – May 27 Gabrielino – at University High School – West LA NC, Del Rey NC
    - i. **Float ideas – email to everyone to tell us what they want to do for next walk after this.**
    - ii. Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion
    - iii. Public comment
    - iv. Committee discussion
    - v. Motion
  - f. Trees on Venice Way – Torrey pine was orig. 8 open tree wells. Mondale/Afghan Pines. California Bay Tree? New Zealand Christmas Tree for Deglupta? No Motion.
10. Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration. – BIG VVG day designated. Janin says we should make a wish list of items so we can prioritize what \$\$\$ we are asking for so that when people ask us for something, then we can see them and not recreate the list each time. Create a binder.

- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 12. ADJOURNED at 2:05

#### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Sarah Wauters at 917 822 2247 by text or email at [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).