



Venice Neighborhood Council

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

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

Venice Arbor Committee (VARb) Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: June 23, 2023

Meeting Time: 12:00 PM Pacific Time

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

Contact: isabelle@idarchitect.com, 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.

Public Posting of Agendas -

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

- Venice Branch of LA Public Library
- 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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or 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 audio recorded.

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

1. Meeting was called to Order at 12:07
2. Roll Call – a quorum of committee members was present.
3. No review or comment was made on prior minutes.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Kate McKinnon (member of the public urged that we need to get specific about which public spaces need to be written into the new community plan. We need to ask the question: where would the community like our open spaces? Is it Frederick Park? A discussion of Frederick Park and the status of the park ensued.
5. Reports
 - a. Chair Report – Report on Motion progress – SRW reported on the failure of the PPP motion to pass the VNC board because it lacked status as an ad-hoc committee at the time the motion was put onto the agenda.
 - b. Isabelle Duvivier out of town so no report from CFAC
 - c. VVG Report – Noel Johnston reported briefly upon VVG planting.
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Legislation to tighten up the penalties against violators of the ordinances regarding the removal and damage to city trees as well as to suggest a program to train landscapers in Los Angeles that no trimming of public trees may take place without seeing a permit. See the draft legislation



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on the VNC website. Motion was discussed, the public commented, and the committee amended. Amendment was proposed (shown as underlined material below). Mark Ryavec moved to approve the amendment, Barry Campion seconded. Sarah R Wauters, Michael McGuffin, Mark Ryavec, Barry Campion all voted to approve amendment. Michael McGuffin moved to approve full motion, Barry Campion seconded, Sarah R Wauters, Michael McGuffin, Mark Ryavec, Barry Campion all approved full motion as follows:

Whereas, the urban canopy of our city is a living provider of air, health, shade, and habitat for humans, domestic animals and wildlife; and,

Whereas, trees reduce CO2, eliminate dust in the atmosphere, dampen traffic noise, retain and filter water into the soil, provide shade that cools our neighborhoods, and beautify our streets; and,

Whereas, trees are particularly essential elements needed on our public right of ways; and,

Whereas, Venice has fewer trees than most other parts of Council District 11; and,

Whereas we, the citizenry of this city, are the owners of the trees in the public right of way, which are to be maintained by the adjacent property owner and may not be removed without authorization from the City; and

Whereas, there have been an increasing number of instances in Venice and elsewhere of the removal of mature street trees without a permit; i.e., illegally,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) asks that Councilwoman Traci Park introduce legislation that would require that fines be imposed on adjacent property owners if, without proper permit, they remove or fail to maintain trees on their adjacent public right of way to the extent that such trees are destroyed; fines shall be levied against such property owner in an amount per tree valuation by the International Society of Arboriculture, as is done in many cities throughout the United States; and such property owners shall also be required to replace such trees with new trees, in the same size as the destroyed tree(s), or as close as feasibly possible, up to as large as 60" box trees; and if partial sidewalk removal/replacement is required to install the replacement tree, then the property owner shall be required to perform such partial removal of the sidewalk, within 3 months of the tree's removal. If a new building is planned and the trees were removed to accommodate such construction, then no Certificate of Occupation may issue until the replacement trees have been installed.

Be It Further Resolved, that the VNC also requests that the councilmember introduce legislation for the city to establish a certification program for landscaping businesses that wish to conduct business in the city to require that they understand that trees in the public way may not be removed without permit, and to require that all trimming and/or removal of city trees must be done by a certified arborist or firm that employees a certified arborist; and the legislation to include a provision that any landscaping contractor that removes a tree without a permit and without a certified arborist having concluded that the tree was beyond saving through care and trimming, shall have their certification to work in the city be revoked. Further, no tree(s) may be removed without the notification of the city council office, the pertinent neighborhood council, and all the neighbors within a one block radius of when the certified arborist will inspect the tree in question.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. After an extensive planting by neighbors of trees on the block east of Pacific on Venice Boulevard by a neighborhood group that is not in keeping with the planting plan put into place 30 years ago, we considered a motion put forth by Isabelle Duvivier. Consider asking Bureau of Street Trees to send a representative to meet with neighbors – consider Motion drafted by Isabelle Duvivier, which addresses several occurrences in Venice Neighborhood Council District and asks appropriate agencies to communicate with CD11, VNC and VArb.
 - i. Public comment – many notes were given by the public with regard to how to address this issue and what to include in a possible motion.
 - ii. Committee discussion – committee members also weighed in on how we should address the city so that city actions are transparent and run through the groups addressing tree planting in Venice.
 - iii. We considered the following language with suggestions (in red):

Whereas LA city council voted to develop, and Mayor Eric Garcetti issued the Los Angeles' Green New Deal, a mayoral directive, in 2019, which places the environment and climate change as one of the city government's highest priorities;
Whereas the City of Los Angeles has thus far failed to attain one of the Green New Deal goals - that of planting and maintaining 90,000 new trees;
Whereas citizens of Venice, the Venice Neighborhood Council, and the city drew up planting plans for the length of Venice Blvd. from Lincoln Blvd. to Pacific Ave. approximately thirty years ago;



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Whereas best practices of urban forestry management must be used and would not include filling in tree wells with concrete, as the city has done in recent months;

Whereas Venice Beach is the largest tourist destination in Los Angeles County;

Whereas Venice is losing our native tree canopy which is important to combat global warming, habitat loss and beautify the City;

Whereas the Street Services of the City of Los Angeles is filling in tree wells with concrete on Venice Blvd in the Venice neighborhood;

Whereas native California Sycamores and Coast Live Oaks are the designated trees by Venice residents 30 years ago street trees for Venice Blvd West of Lincoln;

Whereas a citizens group recently replaced Sycamores with Redbuds on Venice Boulevard with a permit from the City;

Whereas Venice Arbor Committee possesses knowledge and community volunteer support for supporting the urban canopy;

Therefore, the VNC requests that the City recommit to the laws and directives both in the Green New Deal and the planting plan established in ____ AND that all matters concerning trees and tree wells conducted by the city departments (Street Services, Urban Forestry) be FIRST communicated to the VNC, VARB and CD11 and that LA Street Services shall communicate the original native trees designation to groups requesting planting permits along Venice Boulevard in the future.

Motion was not proposed as drafting efforts continue and the motion will be considered for vote in the next session.

- b. The Committee considered 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 at Lincoln Blvd. – we passed a motion and it will hit the July VNC meeting agenda. Our motion should include a distribution list that includes the architect, the developer, the general contractor, Urban Forestry, etc.
- c. Submit for a VNC community grant, for funding of another water pig and to pay labor to water once a week.
 - i. Public comment – Robin commented that new money is available and that we would get the money for a new pig.
 - ii. Committee discussion
 - iii. Motion

- 10. Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration. Comments were made by Paola to express what's important to tree advocates in the new general plan for Venice.
- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 12. ADJOURNED at 2:15.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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