



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 Minutes

Meeting Date: October 20, 2023
Meeting Time: 11:00 PM Pacific Time
Meeting Location: Gjusta (exterior open area), 320 Sunset Ave., Venice, 90291
Contact: isabelle@idarchitect.com, sarahwauters123@gmail.com

Sarah Wauters, Chair (SW)		Michael McGuffin (MM)	X
Isabelle Duvivier (ID)	X	Noel Johnston (NJ)	X
Mark Ryavec (MR)	X	Barry Campion (BC)	X
		Nico Ruderman (NR)	

1. Call to Order at 11:15.
2. Roll Call – Quorum present
3. Review, Comment and Adopt Minutes from prior meetings. Minutes were not available and will be addressed at next meeting.
4. Janin Paine was nominated for membership to the Board and was approved unanimously. This will be formally presented and voted on in the next meeting.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT.
6. Reports
 - a. Chair Report
 - i. As SW was not present, ID reported that she is currently meeting with several City entities on tree policy.
 - ii. Courtney McCammon is up for renewal as RAP ecologist and it is hoped that she will be full time and have broader responsibilities.
 - iii. As Janin Paine (JP) has expressed interest in joining the Board of Varb, ID suggested that she be formally nominated and voted upon in the next meeting.
 - iv. Meeting with Traci Parks’ office will be discussed later in the meeting.
 - b. Report from CFAC – ID included in above.
 - c. VVG Report – NC reported that work was continuing on Saturday mornings and that, as it was still very warm, we would not be doing any planting until it cooled off. Maintenance was continuing at all locations. Watering is ongoing.
 - d. OFW Report - MR reported that he and Janin Paine had presented at the last OFWC meeting regarding the future design of OFW and the bicycle path, including the fact that grass would be increasingly impractical to maintain and that native plantings should be encouraged.
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Meeting locations. It was briefly discussed and it appears that Brian Averill (VNC President) is currently dealing with this situation. In the meantime, we will continue to meet in gathering spaces that are open to all.
 - b. NPG and CIP application.
 - i. We discussed and passed around the current draft application.
 - ii. It was noted that the date should be corrected on the application.
 - iii. Committee discussed that our Motion should simply be on whether to submit this application for funding for the planting of 39 trees to the VNC.
 - iv. The Motion to submit application for funds to the VNC was made by MR and seconded by MM. (5-0-0).
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Community Plan and Feedback
 - i. MM discussed the Varb meeting (MM, JP, ID) with Traci Park’s office (including Jeff Khau and Ashley Lozada) on October 11, 2023 and the Varb concerns with the Community Plan:
 1. Narrow parkways that do not allow for substantial tree canopy.



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2. Substantial miscommunication between government entities regarding tree policy i.e., DOT, Coastal, Urban Forestry, etc., and lack of coordination on issues such as tree removal and tree planting.
 3. Concerns with low lying properties and how to develop practical plans for their future.
 4. Stressed that we are not against density in any way but that there must be both a tree plan and a landscape plan for future development(s).
 - ii. ID agreed to review the above issues with MM and JP and get back to Jeff Khau and Ashley Lozada. She will also encourage them to help develop a formula for tree ratio to property size.
 - b. Winter planting. This will continue when weather allows and be discussed in a future meeting.
 - c. Tree and Biodiversity Planning. See item a.ii. above and discuss in detail in a future meeting.
 - d. Legislation to tighten up the penalties against violators of the ordinances regarding the removal and damage to City trees - see Kevin De Leon Motion dated August 1, 2023. This was touched on above but should be discussed in detail in a future meeting.
10. Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration.
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
12. ADJOURNED at 11:55

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