



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

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## Venice Arbor Committee (VArb) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Aug 25, 2023

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

1. Call to order approx. 12:15.

2. Roll Call:

Sarah Wauters, Chair (SW)	Present	Michael McGuffin	Not there
Isabelle Duvivier	Present	Noel Johnston	Present
Mark Ryavec	Present	Barry Campion	Not there
		Jim Murez (ex-officio)	Not there

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – Several members of the public made comments.

4. Reports

- Chair Report – in the interest of time, chair report was truncated.
- Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier described a pilot project with small native trees for small parkways
- VVG Report – Noel Johnston – VVG's project at beach is thriving. Noel announced an event at Tim Rudnick's house, on Sept 9, Tom Ford of Bay Foundation is speaking about the Federal Grant money he received for Coastal restoration and mitigation of sea level rise. Suggested we should go and spend time finding out Tom's project and telling him about our grassroots effort.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

a. The committee replaced Jim Murez with Nico Ruderman for Board Liaison – Mark Ryavec 1st, NJ 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-0-0 motion carried unanimously.

b. Tree and Biodiversity Planning and the City's Urban canopy and tree Canopy Coverage; 15-0499-S-2 Report Back

VArb passed the following motion for submittal to the VNC:

Whereas, as part of a City Council file 15-0499-S-2, the City Council has adopted a report from the Planning and Land Use Management Committee which was an extensive report to maximize the City's efforts to grow tree canopy coverage and manage biodiversity; and related matters;

Whereas, the City Council further directed the City Attorney, the Bureau of Street Services, and the Board of Public Works, to report and provide recommendations on some proposed amendments to the City's Protected Tree Ordinance and whereas these recommendations would address situations such as the destruction of the Western Sycamore trees on Venice Blvd. and the withholding of building permits to rectify that type of infraction;

Whereas, there is great present urgency for biodiversity planning in the face of continued and rapid city-wide canopy reduction and as there are species exclusively living in the Los Angeles Basin that face reduced population due to current outdated practices;

Therefore, VNC moves to show support for the City Council's motion to adopt the Planning and Land Use Management Committee recommendations and it's proposed amendments, AND the VNC requests that the report back ordered from the City Attorney, the Bureau of Street Services and the Board of Public Works on file number 15-0499-S-2 be required in a timely fashion of 60 days from this motion.



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NJ 1<sup>st</sup>, MR 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vote 4-0-0 Motion carried.

c. Flower Ave Tree Spacing Guideline – discussed briefly

d. LUPC strategy with regard to Tree Guidelines – It was proposed that we go to make a presentation regarding trees and the planning aspect of keeping trees while designing around trees. Please add an item to their review to look at the existing trees, and require, tree guidelines, include as the criteria for reviewing projects. Other LUPC committees at other Neighborhood Committees reviews projects through these lenses. We passed this motion in the past, will make presentation to LUPC in the future.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Legislation to tighten up the penalties against violators of the ordinances regarding the removal and damage to city trees. See the Kevin De Leon Motion dated Aug 1, 2023 – we will make a motion to support in future.

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNED – 1:00 pm adjourned.