



Venice Neighborhood Council



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

Minutes

Schools & Parks Committee

November 16, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL: 6:14pm

Paul Davis	Eric Donaldson	John Palka
Regan Kibbee	Mehrnoosh Mojallali	Robin Murez
Julie Bean		

II. APPROVAL of PRIOR MINUTES.

N/A

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. CHAIR REPORT

- A. Welcome
- B. Introductions (Members and New Members)
- C. Schools & Parks Committee Goals

V. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Membership

- 1. Public Comment
- 2. Member Comments (Robin)

VNC Motion passed October 17, 2023 asks Rec & Parks Commissioners and Executive Staff to meet with VNC regarding plans for Venice parks, now and ongoing. No response yet. Immediate concerns re:

Centennial Park - central green space removed; disregard for historic elements; disregard for Carousel proposed by this committee & supported by VNC; enclosing with fence and not creating access to AK



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Blvd as this committee has proposed. RAP did not consult with VNC nor community. RAP plan violates CA Coastal Permits. Exorbitant cost \$200,000 while repair might have cost \$10,000. And while other Venice parks in dire need of maintenance, repairs and improvements.

Westminster Ocean Front Walk Playground demolished without notice. No evidence of dangerous conditions necessitating demolition. No plans for replacement. Numerous families are upset and want input.

3. VNC Boundary Schools/Parks Liaisons Named
 - 3.1. Venice High School/Oakwood Recreation Center - Paul Davis
 - 3.2. Mark Twain Middle School - Julie Bean
 - 3.3. Saint Mark School - Eric Donaldson
 - 3.4. Westminster Elementary School - John Palka
 - 3.5. Ecole Claire Fontaine - Robin Murez
 - 3.6. Outstanding Schools and Parks - Members to identify potential liaisons
4. Schools/Parks Introduction Letters - Co-Chairs to compose before next meeting
5. Committee discussion on membership - Voting Members vs. Non-Voting Members
6. Venice Walking Tour App (Robin) - Paul offered to upload park data
- B.** Discussion about schools within VNC boundaries, but that are located in the 90066 zip code. Many families at those schools are not able to vote in VNC elections.
- C.** Discussion about VNC vote on memorial bench for Jeffrey Solomon.
 1. Cost of bench extremely high - \$25,000
 2. Cost of bench fully funded by donations
 3. LA Parks Foundation refused memorial bench for Canal Park
- D.** Identify protocol of committee/public to engage with reps of Councilwoman Traci Park regarding Venice schools and parks.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:11pm