



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



## Board of Officers Regular Meeting

### **ROUGH DRAFT** Agenda

**6:30-9:30 PM Tuesday, September 19th , 2024**

**Westminster Elementary School**

**1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice, CA 90291**

(enter from parking lot on Westminster Ave)

TRANSLATION Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 30 seconds per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL

Brian Averill	Erica Moore	Yolanda Gonzalez	Bruno Hernandez
Jim Robb	Lisa Redmond	Deborah Keaton	Jason Sugars
Helen Fallon	Robert Thibodeau	Eric Donaldson	Christopher Lee
Tima Bell	Alley Bean	Fran Solomon	
Michael Jensen	Clark Brown	CJ Cole	
Nico Ruderman	Steve Bradbury	Soledad Ursua	

### 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES -xxx

### 3. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR RECUSALS

### 4. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

### 5. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

### 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMIT TO 20MIN/1MIN PER SPEAKER

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed one (1) minute unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the meeting.



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## 9. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR Items deemed to be routine, non controversial. Any Board member or stakeholder can ask a clarifying question instead of, or before, moving items to the end of the general agenda.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

### LUPC

#### A. OPPOSITION TO VENICE AUXILIARY PUMPING PLANT (3-1-2)

**MOTION:** The Venice Neighborhood Council opposes CPC-2024-2010-GPA-ZC-CU2-SPPC--allowing the City of Los Angeles to obtain a General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Zone Change (ZC) from RW2-1 to Public Facilities at 133 Hurricane St., a Project Review (SPPC), and a Conditional Use for the construction, use, and maintenance of a public parking area in a residential zone (CU2) for the empty lots located at 128 Hurricane St/3913 Esplanade--unless LA Public Works (LAPW) materially and in good faith addresses the community's serious issues with this project, including but not limited to: 1. Conformance to the certified Venice LUP (Policies I.A.5, I.C.1, I.C.6, and I.D.1); 2. Adherence to court-mandated ESHA protections in the surrounding lagoon area; 3. Mitigation of EIR issues related to loss of species and habitat, groundwater impact, and potentially significant methane gas release; 4. Mitigation of "significant and unavoidable" issues including ground-borne vibration, which could result in residential building damage, and construction noise that exceeds LA CEQA Thresholds guidelines; 5. Improvement of inadequate emergency access during construction activities; 6. Change to five day/week construction instead of proposed six days/week; 7. Elimination of the proposed parking lot at 128 Hurricane St. for which parking requirements can be fulfilled via restricted street parking around the current Venice Pumping Plant (VPP), a savings of at least \$2.5 million to the city; 8. Modification of project design so that it is compatible with its residentially zoned neighborhood; 9. Protection of residential properties from dirt, dust and other construction impacts; 10. Upgrade of deficient maintenance plan for both the new and existing facility.

**DESCRIPTION:** See supporting Documents

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## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

## **12. PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR ILARIA MAZZOLENI (5 MIN)**

Pomona College will be conducting a semester long design studio on Ocean Front Walk. Professor Mazzoleni will give a presentation on the studio kick-off, goals, schedule and opportunities to get involved.

## **13. CHAIR APPOINTMENTS**

Homelessness - Alley Bean  
Parking and Transportation - Robert Thibodeau  
Community Resiliency - Keith Harrison

## **14. BUDGET AND FINANCE**

- A. MER
- B. NPGs for JazzFest and for Day of Dead Festival
- C. Placeholder for possible Budget adjustments

## **LUPC**

## **15. 404 LINNIE CANAL**

Demolition of existing single Family dwelling with attached garage. New construction of a 3,551 sq ft three-story plus roof deck single-family dwelling with attached 454 sq ft garage.

MOTION: The VNC recommends approval of the project as presented.

## **16. PRESERVE AND TO CREATE NEW URBAN GREEN SPACE IN VENICE (5-0-1)**

Background: It is known that cities and neighborhoods can fight climate change by preserving and creating urban tree cover that can mitigate greenhouse emissions, reduce the energy needed to cool homes and businesses, and create a more pleasant and healthier urban space. In addition the unsealed ground can absorb storm-water run off and create a healthy habitat for urban and migratory animals and insects. Since the last comprehensive Los Angeles General plan was written over 50 years ago, the urban canopy has been shrinking despite many programs by several city administrations promising Millions of Trees planted. Los Angeles has one of the lowest rates of urban tree

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cover among America's largest cities at 15.2%, despite its sunny climate and favorable conditions for plant growth. It is only surpassed by New York's 13.5%, according to MIT's "Green View Index". Further data shows an unequal distribution of trees, with a disproportionate amount of tree cover concentrated in Los Angeles' richer neighborhoods, according to a drone survey by KCET. Hancock Park maintains a healthy 37% of urban forest cover while South LA barely survives on a minuscule 7%. Los Angeles has a dismal record of maintaining the trees that were planted during various initiatives in the past. Almost half the trees planted will die because of lack of water and/or poor management. More trees are destroyed yearly by urban development and removals due to safety concerns. Tree experts suggest a 4-1 tree replacement proposal for sidewalks instead of the 2-1 currently practiced, which will be insufficient to address long-term environmental damage. In addition, Venice faces unprecedented and unique environmental challenges, such as tsunami impacts and rising sea levels, as well as local, manmade problems like the reduction in private green space due to over-development, increased impermeable surfaces, and the over-charging of ground water due to the failure to maintain absorbent surfaces throughout the neighborhood. These are just a few of the challenges that are facing our city and Venice in particular. To overcome these challenges, Venice's Planning and Land use committees should support efforts to implement recommendations of Venice's established and future committees that deal with maintaining and improving urban tree cover, so as to be one step ahead of similar efforts made by the city of LA at large. Given these facts and the City of Los Angeles' failings as a whole to implement a manageable Urban Forestry Plan, this motion proposes to assess and catalog the current urban tree canopy in Venice and to start a community effort to improve the tree canopy in Venice. Along with the goals and efforts of the already established Venice Arbor committee\*, the following measures should be implemented to ensure a better and more climate-ready urban environment for Venice's future.

Motion: The VNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles:

1. Survey and catalog current tree cover and health of green space in Venice. Using current internet maps and manual surveys to identify current tree cover and the lack of it.
2. Identify city-owned and other public land where urban forest can be introduced. For instance, many easements along Venice boulevard belonging to the city or Caltrans can be made accessible to the public, some of which already have tree cover and permeable surfaces. Many traffic islands and other left-over spaces could be unsealed and converted into green islands or connected with a continued tree-lined path.
3. Identify streets and alleys that would allow more tree planting in parkways or in medians. Coordinate with the recent Parking Study conducted in Venice to designate more streets as one-way or parking streets. Wide streets like Venice Way and other streets that used to be canals could be designated as Tree-lined Streets leading shaded pathways to the beach and around the neighborhood.
4. Identify current parks and parking lots in which urban forest cover can be increased.
5. Create an Urban Forest Management Plan for Venice that betters that of the city of Los Angeles. Set quantified urban tree canopy targets, identify resources to meet those targets, and adopt best urban forestry practices being followed by other leadership cities.

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## 17. VENICE BOYS PCN REQUEST SUPPORT (6-0-2)

Background: Hugo Moreno was born and raised in Venice and qualifies for the City of Los Angeles's Social Equity Program, which is designed to give ownership opportunities to groups/individuals harmed by the War on Drugs. Currently, the number of retail dispensaries (8) exceeds the numbers permitted in the community plan based on population (4). Therefore, new dispensaries must go through a Public Convenience or Necessity (PCN) process to obtain a permit.

MOTION: The VNC shall submit a letter of support for the Venice Boys petition to the city for a retail dispensary in Venice.

## 18. BOARD COMMENT ON NON AGENDIZED ITEMS

## 19. ADJOURN

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, or 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 by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

### Public Posting of Agendas -

The Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:  
Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

### 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)

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## **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 our website: [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) 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 the VNC Secretary, email at: [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org).

## **Reconsideration and Grievance Process -**

For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

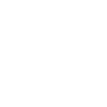
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