



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: August 16th, 2024

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Meeting Location: Gjusta, 320 Sunset Ave., Venice, CA

Contact: sarahwauters123@gmail.com, isabelle@idarchitect.com

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 video and audio recorded.
- The public will be able to listen and speak but their video will be disabled.

Sarah Wauters, Chair (SW)	X	Noel Johnston	
Isabelle Duvivier	X	Barry Campion	
Janin Paine	X	Nico (ex-officio)	

1. Call to Order – Approve July 2024 minutes, SRW motions, ID seconded, 3-0-0.

2. Roll Call

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

VARB is doing an excellent and should be made a permanent committee.

4. Reports

- Chair Report** - Sarah Wauters – Discuss the TREES ACT. Rose Ave. revitalization – SRW to send species list to landscape architect. Andreas to involve Charles Miller. Trees Act to fund the planting of 300,000 trees yearly to achieve urban equity. We need to send opinions to Congressman Ted Lieu. He is strong on environmental so should be receptive. We can also reach out to family and friends nationally to support the bill so it will pass.
- Report from CFAC** - Isabelle Duvivier - Pilot tree species project officially approved. We need to switch out the species. Hector email says the Indiana parkway needs to be altered to create minimum 4 feet planting. They will cut the concrete to create bulb-ins as was achieved on Commonwealth. This will accommodate larger tree growth over time. Padua is completely approved – California Ash are approved there, Isabelle got 14 from Tree of Life, Manzanita also approved. They will be planted on the 600 Block of Indiana, both sides. This is a block away from our bottle brush plantings. 20 trees total. Desert Willow and Western Redbud natives will go in on Indiana.
- VVG Report** – Isabelle Duvivier - Penmar RAP property trees are approved – 32 trees, Engleman, Coast Live and Valley Oak. We need to raise money to purchase. We hope to approach the VNC again for the next grant opportunity. The area is a flight stopover for migrating birds and has lost several trees over time due to age and neglect, so they need replacement. (We have planted approximately 100 trees per year).



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- d. Need to purchase the 8 new trees for Oakwood Park. This will bring a total of 60 new trees scheduled to plant. Pilot project and Oakwood are funded already from our VNC grant. Isabelle is putting together a schedule, Pilot and Oakwood will probably take 3-4 sessions for each to complete.
- e. Sept. 28th folks from the real estate investment company Rexford Industrial and others will come out with their volunteers and dogs and will plant to fill in spots in Westminster Dog Park microforest.
- f. Janin and Isabelle made a flyer to recruit Venice High School students to volunteer for VVG as part of VVG's ongoing volunteer outreach.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. LADWP Biodiversity motion -

- i. Isabelle reports: Nurit Katz (Chief sustainability Officer at UCLA), has been added to the LADWP expert council on biodiversity team who've created ordinances, she worked with Mia Lehrer to bring the Biodiversity Access to Nature motion for LADWP to boost its metrics and studies of biodiversity access, and to put in place an action plan. It has passed. Sarah feels the culture at LADWP needs to be changed through education. For example, the way in which they prune trees with no concern for health of the tree. Crews need instruction. Will inform VNC board about this motion. We should reach out to Nurit to see if she could use some public support.

b. City of LA beautification and Olympic Funding –

- i. Sarah talks about funding of Olympic venues and possibility of funding. Eric recommends Windward Circle area and Lincoln Blvd north of Venice Blvd as possible beautification projects for Venice. Potentially do before-and-after mockups for those two spots. Traci Park's office should be approached with ideas. Sarah will check in with Evan who has done past drawings, and Robert Thibodeau regarding Lincoln. Lincoln improvement would need Caltrans support. Rose Avenue is also a possibility for greening.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Messaging to Public about Watering Trees

- i. Motion to message public about watering trees won't be submitted until next month, September. Request for emails and website messaging sent to public, Nico Ruderman will assist.

b. Pollinator Project with Venice BID

- i. Isabelle on Pollinator Corridor Project: Submitted and approved. Isabelle created a beautiful presentation. Green on the map shows phase one, there is now a request to expand this all the way to the Ocean. 2nd page is specific as to how VVG will be involved. Traci Park's office will secure the permits. Garden 1A will be the first. Landscape designers to hopefully take on specific sections. BID has committed to 1 hour a week watering and also weeding. City can only spend up to 5K at a time which will go through the Traci Park Foundation. Isabelle's presentation also includes examples of Butterfly Maps etc. from Singapore and San Francisco, etc. Phase one funds will be used to cut the tree wells on Third Ave. to double their current size.



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- c. **Artificial Turf Restrictions** – Andreas Kemke SB676 reversed the state’s stand on synthetic grass. Puts it back to the city to pass legislation to permit or not permit it. Artificial Turf item is on the agenda for next VNC meeting. Andreas might prepare a presentation.

Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNED 12:45pm

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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