

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Date: May 17, 2025 Time: 9 A.M.
Location: Community Room-Extra Space Storage
658 S. Venice Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER Time: 9:03 AM

ROLL CALL WITH DECLARATION OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST if any: None

Helen Fallon, Chair x Crystal Lopez x Lisa Redmond x Eric Hartnack x

APPROVAL of PRIOR MINUTES: Motion to approve April 5, 2025 minutes. Moved by Lisa R, 2nd by Crystal L. 3/0/1 Yes: Lisa R, Crystal L, Helen F, Abstain: Eric H

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Budget Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.

One Stakeholder: Jay Stark representing developers of Metro Busyard. Project will be 75% market rate, 25% affordable. Contact info: Jstark@pinyongroup.com . For info on the status of the project: google Venice division C metro.

CHAIR REPORT REPORT/UPDATES:

Two announcements were sent out regarding availability of NPGs. The submission deadline was 5/8. A thank you to Lisa for preparing the notice announcing the availability of NPGS and the so that it could be sent via Constant Contact. City funding deadlines: June 1st for check requests which means NPGs must be approved at our May Board meeting. June 20th is last date for credit card payments (June Board meeting is the 17th). Outreach will need to meet and submit any Outreach motions so they can be heard at our next committee meeting. The Committee's NPG checklist was approved by the Board and posted to our webpage. Thanks to Crystal who reformatted the document giving it a more user-friendly appearance.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and review of April MER and Excel spreadsheet and motion to approve April MER.

Motion: The Venice Board approves the April 30th Monthly Expenditure Reports (MER). (See supporting documents-excel spreadsheet and MER.) Eric H moved, Lisa R 2nd, 4/0/0 (unanimous)

2. Discussion of City's proposal to reduce the NC funding for fiscal year 2025-2026 and possible motion to file CIS:

Discussion: Possibility that City may not allow a carryover and that the proposed NC budget for next fiscal will be \$25K. If a 10K carryover is allowed, our budget projections indicate that we will be returning at least \$3K to the city if outreach expenses are not submitted and the recommended NPGs are not passed. Motion should only weigh in on NC Budget change and not imply that the VNC is taking a position on other portions of the budget.

Motion to substitute the following motion for the motion that is scheduled on the May Board Agenda. (Motion to be amended: The VNC Board supports Council File 25-0600 if the budget proposal for the FY 2025-2026 is amended to include no reduction to the current annual NC budget. Eric H, Lisa R 2nd 4/0/0 Unanimous

Substitute Motion to our previous motion: VNC will file a CIS in Council File 25-6000 and will take a Neutral Position. The VNC Board is not in a position to offer specific opinion on the broader budget but feel it is essential to state clearly that the VNC does not support any reduction to our existing budget allocation. The VNC Board understands the complexities of fiscal planning and recognizes that difficult decisions must be made. However, we urge you to preserve our funding at its current level.

(Current proposal is to reduce the \$32K budget to \$25K.) (see supporting document) Eric H Moved, Lisa R 2nd. 4/0/0 Unanimous.

3. Discussion re need to replace credit card holder before year end to ensure smooth transition between fiscal years. Operational expenses are currently charged to outgoing Board Member CJ Cole's card.

Motion: The VNC Board appoints Board Member Lisa Redmond as a credit card holder effective June 21st (replacing out-going Board member CJ Cole). Eric H moved, Crystal L 2nd. 4/0/0 (Unanimous)

4. Review, discussion and possible motions for the following NPGs that have been submitted during the last month to the VNC. (see supporting documents) NPGs are reviewed for availability of funds and if they meet the City's funding guidelines and regulations.

Board has budgeted \$8,000 for NPGs. Because of the city's financial crisis we may not be allowed to carryover funds.

- a. Venice Chamber Community Foundation, fiscal sponsor for Verdant Venice Group \$3501.02 for replacement of trees at Centennial Park and on 5th Avenue.

Motion: Committee approves NPG to be submitted to the Board. Eric H moved, Crystal L 2nd passed 4/0/0 (unanimous)

- b. Friends of the Venice Library \$2,404.89 for 3 speech Tablets including software for special needs library patrons especially children and teens.

Motion: Committee approves NPG be submitted to the Board. Eric H moved, Crystal L 2nd Motion approved 4/0/0 (unanimous)

- c. Venice Heritage Museum \$5,008 for archivist, photographer etc.

Discussion: The NPG was forwarded prior to the meeting to the head of the Funding department who confirmed that expenses for personnel for operating expenses are not eligible for funding.

Motion: The committee will not forward this NPG to the Board because per city funding regulations it cannot be funded. Moved by Eric H, Crystal L 2nd. Vote 4/0/0 (unanimous)

- d. Friends of Westminster \$4,005 for trees on Abott Kinney, soil for school garden, refreshments for volunteers, solar batteries etc.

Discussion: request for funding is for next fiscal year. Applicant will be advised to reapply and also asked to provide a more detailed budget for their requests, including a permit to plant trees.

Motion: Budget Committee will not forward this NPG to the Board per city regulations discussed since it is not eligible to be funded in this fiscal year. Eric H Moved, Crystal L 2nd. 4/0/0 (Unanimous)

5. Next meeting: Wednesday June 11th 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:24 AM