



# Venice Neighborhood Council

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

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) Phone: 310-421-8627

## Venice Arbor Committee (VArb) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 23rd, 2025

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Meeting Location: Zinque, 1440 Lincoln Ave., Venice, CA

Contact: [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com), [a.kemkes@verizon.net](mailto:a.kemkes@verizon.net)

### 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](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).

### Public Posting of Agendas -

Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA90291
- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive all Venice Neighborhood Council agendas by email, subscribe to <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils>.

### (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](https://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)

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, Co-Chair	x	Andreas Kemkes, Co-Chair	x
Isabelle Duvivier	x	Barry Campion	
Janin Paine	x	Eric Schiff	x
Nico Ruderman (ex-officio)			

1. Call to Order – Approve last month's minutes. SRW moves and Janin Paine seconded. 5-0-0
2. PUBLIC COMMENT (will be limited to 1 minute to the general public only, at this time).  
Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration.
3. REPORTS
  - a. Chair Report — Andreas brings up a Columbia structural that soil can be used for ADA structural streets. Suggest the structural soil. Put it into the agenda in future.
  - b. Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier
  - c. VVG Report – Noel Johnston or Isabelle Duvivier
  - d. Pollinator Project - Janin Paine
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Santa Monica Airport Park - Great Park Coalition (Cris Gutierrez and Michael Brodsky) came to give a presentation about their work to form the new park in SM as a nature-oriented park. Presentation concentrated on the history of the land and the efforts to make it into a park. The Great Park Coalition were connected with VVG.



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- b. MTA Project - Isabelle Duvivier reported that Jay Stark says he will put into the plans some big trees in the parkway. It was proposed that we should communicate with the planning department about what are the requirements for that street and to lobby for the green space being maintained so that the pollinator corridor can extend along that section of Sunset to the beach.
- c. Japanese American Monument - Nothing to report. They met with the board member.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Right of Way - Public Gardens on Venice Blvd** - We will draft a new motion that will address the broader issue of protecting the trees along Venice Blvd. Send Isabelle permit number and the address and complaint - this property might be in violation. Sean Silva - he will send things to Building and Safety. Brian Ramirez (UFD) - Isabelle will send an email. Talk to Jim Murez about the process of obtaining R-permits.
- b. **Shell Circle Project** - Barry has spoken with the group and they have stepped back from the plan to remove some of the palms. They only want to remove some of the agave and plant in the remaining space. Isabelle also spoke with them and reignited an interest in native plantings. Sarah will send a list of native plants.
- c. **Dell Project on LADOT Parking Lot 701** - Amendment is approved. Janin moves, SRW seconds. All approve 4-0-0. Eric Schiff had to leave the meeting prior to the vote. Motion follows:

### **Venice Arbor Committee - Motion to Raise Awareness of City Assets at Farmer's Market Parking Lot 701**

**Whereas** City Council has passed a motion (Case File 15-1138-S42) to study the alternative use of Parking Lot 701 (Farmer's Market Lot) instead of Parking Lot 731 for housing along Venice Boulevard (known as the Venice Dell Community Housing Project);

**Whereas** Parking Lot 701 possesses a large number of city assets, including a large number of Native Trees – 55 x 30 year-old Sycamores, 29 Coast Live Oaks - and forward-thinking Low Impact Development swales that carved out concrete from the greater parking lot - comprising 2240 cumulative years of tree growth;

**Whereas** Venice community members worked together with CALTrans and received considerable grant monies to plant the tree assets now growing in Parking Lot 701, approximately 30 years ago, and are part of what comprises what is likely the largest concentration of Native Trees within Venice (the trees along Venice from Lincoln to Pacific);

**Whereas** recent studies from USC show that the trees of Los Angeles are offsetting close to 30% of carbon emissions during the year, 60% during the summer, and any loss of offset poses a loss of important city services;

**Whereas** members of our community that may reside at future housing on Lot 701 have a right, as do all community members, to access nature and green space, even if limited, that has trees and habitat within the footprint of Lot 701;



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Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge the city to acknowledge the tree assets planted and growing since 30+ years ago at Parking Lot 701, **to design any future housing at the site such that all parkway trees are preserved and as much as possible the parking lot trees are designed around, so that all community members and Lot 701 residents may enjoy** the shade, cooling, carbon offset, beauty and property value **benefit** to neighboring buildings, habitat and beauty.

Venice Neighborhood Council resolves to urge that the city institute strict tree protection measures, as per section 4 of the Recreation and Parks Department tree care guidelines, such that parkway trees near Parking Lot 701 next to the construction will be fenced off and watered during construction.

Following passage this Resolution shall be forwarded to Mayor Karen Bass, Councilwoman Traci Park, general managers of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation, the commissioners of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

## 6. ADJOURNED - 1:00

### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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