

MINUTES VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OCEAN FRONT WALK COMMITTEE

Monday November 3, 2025

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

Roll Call: In attendance were Fran Solomon (Chair), Deborah Keaton, Nick Antonicello, Todd Eichenberger.

MISC: There were no minutes submitted for approval from the previous meeting.

General Public Comment:

1st speaker: Raised concern about RV's parked in neighborhoods and mentioned a recent death reported in an RV that took too long to discover. Citing an on going problem.

2nd speaker: Pointed out that there needs to be decorum and respect between committee members and attendees.

3rd Speaker: Wanted to know more about policy towards permits and citations of OFW vendors.

4th speaker: made an announcement about an upcoming town hall.

Fran Solomon general statement: Noted a marked improvement of conditions on OFW in large part due to monitoring and cleaning crews. The consistent presence has made a positive impact .

Informed attendees of meetings she has attended with stakeholders since last meeting discussing a range of topics but with an emphasis on upcoming World Cup and Olympic events. There will be events held at Venice Beach and in fact the first medal of the Olympics will be a triathlon and will be presented at Venice Beach. Other issues discussed during the meetings with stakeholders included unleashed dogs, electric vehicles, outreach for the needy and those struggling with addiction and mental health issues, and accessibility for the disabled.

An attendee raised an issue regarding his view that there is inadequate response time in the event of an emergency event. This led to discussion about unleashed dogs vs. dogs on leash. Another attendee suggested that there be more instruction and outreach so that people know how to handle a situation if a dog gets aggressive.

Government Reports: Sean Silva from CD 11 talked about how these monthly meetings have been gaining momentum and he would like to get more of the service sectors to show up and submit reports that relate to Venice Beach and Ocean front Walk. Talked about the focus on Venice Beach for more events and the need for year round attention and oversight. Staying focused on public safety, Bollard and Vehicle access restrictions. Moved the Bollard operations to a more suitable agency. Talked about an upcoming town hall at the Bar Center. Limited seating but accessible online. Electric Vehicle traffic is decreasing due to measures taken. Maintenance issues such as tree trimming and lighting underway.

Talked about how pagodas have become a focus with intent to restore them with the very ambitious time line of a Spring / Summer 2026 completion. Current status is that Dept. of Rec and Parks is doing an assessment to determine a plan of remedial action.

Reiterated the fact that CD11 is very focused on Venice Beach and the boardwalk.

Nick asked about the prospects of resurfacing OFW and/or Refurbishing the grassy areas . Sean replied that resurfacing was not on the agenda and that specific problems with the grass should be brought to their attentions they can fix them.

Community members began discussions:

Commenter 1- Asked about World Cup and Marina Issues

Commenter 2- Does not like Barricades because it impedes his ability to access Speedway

Commenter 3-Wants to engage local youth and create more opportunities. Being adherent to the concept of the seventh generation.

Commenter 4- Local Shop owner for many years (Jay's Rentals) presented another side of the Ebike story. He pointed out that he had to adapt to the customers needs by making electric vehicles available. He needed as much space as possible to keep these vehicles onsite and complies with rigorous constraints on him. He points out that others seem to get away with encroaching on public access. He suggested that the bike path be widened for the growing demand and competition for thoroughfare .

Commenter 5-Asked for clarification from Sean about intent to rebuild Pagodas . He assured her that the intent at this point was to restore them to the original look. But slight practical adjustments be made such as more durable materials or finishes. He will know more specifically after the Rec and Parks submit an assessment.

LAPD report: Citations up 90% crime down 30-40% depending on the crime. Things are getting cleaner and safer and St. Joseph's outreach team report's fewer people needing assistance.

There was a “smash and grab street gang foiled by barricades and eventually caught recently.

There is a focus on vendors being more compliant on both sides (East & West) of OFW.

Nick asked about the current function and future prospects for the sub station.

The Sergeant explained that it is a small area with no public access although there was historically a manned public desk, there is no capacity to do so at this time.

There is more emphasis on animal control lately.

The Police are planning on getting more enforcement at the basketball courts and bathrooms and are ironing out contract issues that have hindered this.

More signage is planned at beach entry locations to make rules clear to the public.

This triggered a concern from an attendee that the signs are unwanted and ineffective.

A commenter raised concern about the number of police and response time when calling 911. The sergeant contends that if the call is given emergency status, it will be processed immediately.

Update of ADA access points: Amanda Heinke

Beaches and Harbors has asked for cost assessments. They indicated that there is no budget for this.

Amanda took the concept to the Mayor's office who was interested in furthering the discussion. Because of initial cost estimates, there may be as few as 1 access point but ideally about 5. Rose/Brooks/Winward/Venice Pier/ Lighthouse

Fran brought up the prospect of private funding. Amanda asked for anyone with more experience to feel free to contact her. Edizen from Venice Paparazzi offered to get in touch for collaboration.

NEW BUSINESS: Fran presented the idea of banners from other countries that would line the boardwalk and welcome visitors and athletes alike. The idea was well received and will move ahead with a suggestion to reach out to mr Krekorian who heads the LA events. The discussion shifted to providing information centers . One commenter suggested the library be a hub for information. Another suggested that QR codes could be scanned for info and translation.

The safety and police response issue was brought up again but stifled due to the time constraints and meeting was adjourned .

ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 PM