
VNC – Special Meeting 2/4/26 - called by Presiding Chair/VP – Gary Pearl

Meeting Minutes (Draft – Based on YouTube Transcript)

Venice Neighborhood Council — Board of Officers Special Meeting – Vote CIS Ministerial Rep to stand in for Presiding Chair – Rep to City for any Official Meeting

Date: February 4, 2026

Time called to order: 5:07 PM (per chair)

Platform: Zoom

Presiding Chair: Gary Pearl (Vice President, serving as Presiding Chair)

Purpose (as stated by Chair)

Special meeting noticed to address a single ministerial/procedural item:

Who, if anyone, is authorized to present the VNC's previously adopted Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding Oakwood Park to the Recreation and Parks Commission (RAP).

Chair states: not a policy debate, not reconsideration of CIS, not broader grievances.

Roll Call / Quorum

Roll call appears to be conducted beginning around 12:48.

Board Members Present (as called):

- *Gary Pearl – Present*
- Tima Bell – Not Present
- Mark Mac – Not Present
- *Ally Bean – Present*
- Brandon Lawson – Not Present
- *Ted Henderson – Present*
- Clark Brown – Present
- *Fran Solomon – Present*
- Jason Sugars – Not Present
- *Jim Fitzgerald – Present*
- Joseph Garcia – Not Present
- Kenya Lee – Not Present
- *Nico Ruderman – Present*
- *Richard Stanger – Present*
- *Yolanda Gonzalez – Present*
- *Soraya Moss – Present*
- *Helen Fallon – Present*

- *Sarah Maher– Present*
- *Erica Moore– Present*
- *Lisa Redmond– Present*

Quorum statement in transcript: “Let the record show that 12 board members are present. So we have a quorum.”

Note: The roll call list above contains more than 12 names; The chair ultimately declares quorum present.

Agenda / Procedural Notes

- Discussion about placing **General Public Comment** after the vote due to another meeting at 6:00 PM (“Rules and Elections”).
- Recording question raised; chair confirms it is being recorded.

Motions, Amendments, and Votes

Motion Attempt (Ruled Out of Order)

Motion: Appoint CC Laddie Williams (stakeholder) to present the CIS.

Maker: (Appears to be Ally Bean at 15:24–15:30)

Ruling: Chair ruled it **out of order** based on city guidance that presenter must be a board member.

Main Motion (As finally stated/recorded)

Mover: Ally Bean

Second: Ted Henderson (chair states Ted seconded; Ally also indicates she seconded earlier—confusing, but chair proceeds with Ted as second)

Motion wording:

If it is proven before the RAP meeting that DONE prohibits CC Lattie Williams from being the CIS representative, then recommend/appoint Sarah Maher to speak as the board presenter; and allow CC Lattie Williams to speak during public comment (time requested: three minutes) as Oakwood community representative.

The motion is internally inconsistent because RAP controls public comment timing; chair notes that.

Amendment #1 (Clarification)

There is a procedural “amendment/clarification” that **Sarah Maher is the board presenter** (instead of “Lisa or Sarah” / dual authors).

The chair then runs **two roll-call votes**:

1. Vote on the **amendment/clarification**
2. Vote on the **full motion** as amended

Vote 1 — Amendment/Clarification (Sarah as presenter)

Result: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY (per roll call)

Votes recorded (all YES):

- Lisa Redmond — Yes-
- Erica Moore — Yes-
- Sarah Mahir — Yes-
- Helen Fallon — Yes-
- Soraya Moss — Yes-
- Richard Stanger — Yes-
- Nico Ruderman — Yes-
- Jim Fitzgerald — Yes-
- Fran Solomon — Yes-
- Ted Henderson — Yes-
- Ally Bean — Yes-
- Gary Pearl — Yes-
- Yolanda Gonzales — Not Present

Count: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Vote 2 — Full Motion (as amended)

Chair frames it as: Sarah Maher to present CIS tomorrow, with the “if DONE is incorrect then CC Lattie...” language still referenced.

Result: PASSES UNANIMOUSLY (per roll call)

Votes recorded (all YES):

- Lisa Redmond — Yes
- Erica Moore — Yes
- Sarah Mahir — Yes
- Helen Fallon — Yes
- Soraya Moss — Yes-
- Yolanda Gonzalez — Yes
- Richard Stanger — Yes
- Nico Ruderman — Yes
- Jim Fitzgerald — Yes
- Fran Solomon — Yes

- Ted Henderson — Yes
- Ally Bean — Yes
- Gary Pearl — Yes

Count: 13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Note: Vote #2 includes Yolanda in roll call; Vote #1 did not.

Public Comment Summary (On-Agenda Item)

Public commenters identified in transcript:

1. **Lydia Ponte**
 - Strong criticism of chair; supports motion; urges quick vote.
2. **Dr. Naomi Nightingale**
 - Expresses confusion; says chair previously agreed CC Lattie would present; urges moving forward to avoid missing RAP opportunity; supports board-member presentation if required.
3. **Paige ?**
 - Requests record reflect CIS does not represent all Oakwood/daily park users; notes dissent.

Board Comment Summary (On the Motion)

- **Helen Fallon:** flags bylaw conflict; says bylaws allow delegation; asks for clarity; wants motion to reflect Ally amendment so CC Lattie could speak if allowed.
- **Gary Pearl (presiding chair):** reads additional guidance directly from city attorney: stakeholder cannot present CIS; city charter controls; asserts privilege/confidentiality on some communications.
- **Lisa Redmond:** supports Sarah Mahir to present; invites stakeholders to attend RAP and speak during public comment.
- **Ally Bean:** reiterates openness to differing viewpoints; urges vote and moving forward.
- **Yolanda Gonzalez:** condemns attacks; urges constructive approach; threatens motion to cancel meeting if divisive behavior continues (no such motion is later made).

General Public Comment (Items Not on the Agenda)

Even though special meeting, chair opens it.

1. **Lamar (from the Valley)**
 - Announces LA City Charter Reform Commission meeting (next day) and concerns about commissioners receiving “marching orders”; mentions budget advocates.

2. Lydia

- Thanks agenda posters; asks when president election will occur; expresses can't be too soon.

Adjournment

Chair closes meeting after completing business and comments; exact timestamp not formally stated but meeting ends 5:59 p.m.

Summary

This special VNC Board of Officers meeting was called to resolve who can present the VNC's Oakwood Park CIS to the Recreation & Parks Commission. The chair stated the City guidance requires the presenter to be an authorized neighborhood council board representative, not a stakeholder. After confusion and debate about an email from DONE and differing interpretations, the board adopted a motion (unanimously) designating **Sarah Maher** as the presenter for the CIS at RAP. The motion also sought to preserve space for stakeholder **CC Lattie Williams** to speak during public comment, if permitted by RAP procedures. The meeting included heated public comment, board comment, and a brief general public comment segment despite the special-meeting format.
