



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



****SPECIAL MEETING****

MINUTES

Venice Neighborhood Council Board

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

7:00 PM

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05 PM.

The Chair appointed Robin Rudisill as Alternate (non-voting) Secretary in the absence of Tima Bell, Secretary.

The Board confirmed the appointment:

13: Yes (AB, CB, HF, JF, TH, KL, MM, SM, EM, SM, GP, LR, FS)

0: No

1: Abstain (DF)

Motion passes

BOARD ROLL CALL (name shown in ~~strike through~~ denotes absence):

David Feige	Alley Bean	Kenya Lee
Gary Pearl	Brennan Lawson	Lisa Redmond
Tima Bell	Clark Brown	Nico Ruderman 7:11 pm*
Helen Fallon	Fran Solomon	Richard Stanger 7:12 pm *
Mark Mack	Jason Sugars	Ted Henderson
Soraya Moss	Jim Fitzgerald	Yolanda Gonzalez 7:13 pm *
Erica Moore	Joseph Garcia	Sarah Mahir

* Arrived after the meeting was called to order, at time indicated.

I. DECLARATION OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Yolanda Gonzalez recused on Agenda Item II. A.1. 606 Venice Blvd but did not leave the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Action on LUPC Motions 01-26-VNC and 02-26-VNC, Budget and Finance Motion 03-26-VNC and 04-26-VNC, and Consent Items 05-26-VNC through 09-26-VNC



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A. LAND USE & PLANNING COMMITTEE (LUPC)

1. 606 Venice Blvd

Case No. APCW-2025-4181-CDP-SPPE-SPPC, ENV-2025-4182-CE
 Committee Vote: 8-1-0
 Project Description: *Change of use & tenant improvements from existing office, light manufacturing, retail sales, and restaurant to a shopping center including retail, fitness, & sit-down/take-out restaurants.*
 Presented By: Jenesa Kurland, LUPC Staff
 LUPC Staff Report: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting69933a17e7449.pdf>

Motion 01-26-VNC

The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends support for the project at 606 Venice Blvd, with the following changes:

1. *The project shall add as many mature trees as possible, to provide shade over all areas.*
2. *The project shall incorporate best practices in watershed management so that water catchment occurs on site, and cobblestones shall remain permeable.*
3. *The applicant shall conduct a traffic circulation study to analyze the possibility of reversing the traffic flow.*
4. *The project shall reserve space for Venice-based public art in the open exterior walls and/or outdoor spaces and shall incorporate architectural elements reflective of historic Venice character.*

Amendment to add at end of 1.: , including 5 or 6 each 36” box Sycamores in the public right-of-way in the Venice Blvd. parkway in keeping with the intent of the previously approved Venice Blvd. Planting Plan.

VOTE on amendment:
 Motion Made By: Mark Mack Seconded By: Helen Fallon
 12: Yes (AB, CB, HF, JF, TH, MM, EM, SM, LR, NR, FS, RS)
 0: No
 4: Abstain (KL, SM, GP, DF)
 1: Recused (YG)
Motion passes

The question was called and passed 13-1-2-1

VOTE on main motion, as amended:
 Motion Made By: David Feige Seconded By: Alley Bean
 6: Yes (JF, TH, MM, SM, FS, RS)
 8: No (AB, HF, KL, SM, EM, GP, LR, NR)
 2: Abstain (CB, DF)
 1: Recused (YG)
Motion fails

2. 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd/The Brig

Case No. DIR-2025-2993-CDP, ENV-2025-2994-CE
 Committee Vote: 8-1-0
 Project Description: *Conversion of parking lot with temporary outdoor dining to permanent outdoor dining area.*



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Presented By: David Feige LUPC Staff

LUPC Staff Report: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting69911fd258267.pdf>

Supplemental LUPC Staff Report: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting69912704d0c3c.pdf>

The Chair stepped aside to allow the Vice President to chair the meeting during consideration of this agenda item as the President had prepared the LUPC Staff Report while serving on LUPC.

Motion 02-26-VNC

For the reasons set forth in the LUPC Staff Report and Supplemental LUPC Staff Report, the Venice Neighborhood Council recommends denial of the CDP for “Al Fresco Dining” at 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd/The Brig.

The question was called on Motion 02-26-VNC and passed 15-0-2

VOTE:

Motion Made By: Alley Bean Seconded By: Lisa Redmond

11: Yes (AB, CB, HF, JF, KL, SM, EM, SM, LR, FS, RS)

2: No (TH, MM)

4: Abstain (YG, GP, NR, DF)

Motion passes

In the midst of the consideration of motion 02-26-VNC, Yolanda Gonzalez made a motion via a point of order which was seconded by Ted Henderson, to remove Lisa Redmond from the Administrative Committee. The acting Chair, Gary Pearl, ruled that as there was another motion on the table, he would address Yolanda’s motion after The Brig motion vote, at which time the Vice President returned the meeting to the President, who ruled that the motion was out of order. Ted Henderson, seconded by Kenya Lee moved to appeal the ruling of the Chair but the appeal failed:

VOTE:

Motion Made By: Ted Henderson Seconded By: Kenya Lee

6: Yes (YG, TH, KL, GP, NR, FS)

9: No (AB, CB, HF, JF, SM, EM, SM, LR, RS)

2: Abstain (MM, DF)

Motion Fails

B. BUDGET AND FINANCE

Treasurer’s Report (See Supporting Documents)

The question was called and passed 15-0-2

Motion 03-26-VNC

The VNC Board approves the January 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER).



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VOTE:

Motion Made By: Helen Fallon Seconded By: Lisa Redmond

16: Yes (AB, CB, HF, JF, YG, TH, KL, MM, SM, EM, SM, GP, LR, FS, NR, RS)

0: No

1: Abstain (DF)

Motion passes.

Motion 04-26-VNC

The VNC Board approves a budget not to exceed \$1,000 for the In Person "RVs Parked in the Streets of Venice Town Hall" previously approved as a Zoom event. Funds may be used for reasonable and necessary event related expenses, including location or room costs, equipment rentals such as tables and chairs, security support, decorum signage, location staffing, and very light refreshments such as water and protein bars. VNC approves budget adjustment if needed.

VOTE:

Motion Made By: Helen Fallon Seconded By: Lisa Redmond

14: Yes (AB, CB, HF, JF, YG, KL, MM, SM, EM, SM, LR, NR, FS, RS)

0: No

3: Abstain (TH, GP, DF)

Motion passes.

C. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR Items deemed to be routine and non-controversial. Any board member or stakeholder may ask a clarifying question or offer good cause as to why an item on the consent calendar should be removed and addressed as a separate agenda item prior to the end of the meeting. Pursuant to VNC Standing Rule 14 "The Chair shall have sole discretion to determine what constitutes good cause."

1. Arbor Committee: VNC Support for the Great Park Coalition (Committee Vote: 4-0-0)

Brief Description:

A recent meeting of the East Venice Neighborhood Association has brought forward the increased pressure to derail the planned airport closure with various efforts that directly impact Venice stakeholders. Please consider this effort to support the work of the Great Park Coalition to close the airport and use it as a future park. Whereas Santa Monica voters overwhelmingly passed Measure LC in 2014, a charter amendment requiring the 192-acre Santa Monica airport property be used only for parks or recreational space once closed, Whereas the planned conversion of the Santa Monica Airport to a park will greatly increase open space access for Venice residents, especially the residents of East Venice, Whereas the Great Park Coalition has represented the efforts of the Santa Monica public to convert the park into a "Great Park"; Whereas Venice residents support the increase of open space, urban canopy, and biodiversity inside the urban environment and collaborative work can link the Santa Monica airport property, or the "Great Park", to Venice in a way that supports these goals, Venice ought to engage and participate in the design and future of this space; Whereas the pollution, noise, and use of public space of Santa Monica Airport does not benefit and specifically harms the public at large and many Venice residents.



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Motion 05-26-VNC

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a great park on the soon-to-be-closed Santa Monica Airport and will add their endorsement to the Great Park Coalition's list of partners. A letter of support will be sent to the City Council district 11 office, the City Recreation and Parks staff, and StreetsLA.

Item 1. pulled from Consent and moved to the end of the Agenda, where it was postponed to the next meeting.

VOTE to postpone:

Motion Made By: Nico Ruderman Seconded By: Yolanda Golzalez

9: Yes (AB, JF, YG, KL, SM, EM, LR, NR, RS)

5: No (TH, MM, SM, GP, FS)

2: Abstain (HF, DF)

Note: Clark Brown left the meeting just prior to the last two items on the agenda, III.C. and this item, which had been moved to the end of the agenda.

Motion passes.

- 2. Outreach Committee: NC Sponsorship of the "Paws in the Park Pet Resource Faire" (Committee Vote: 4-0-0)**

Brief Description:

The Venice Neighborhood Council as an official sponsor of the Paws in the Park Free Pet Resource Faire, alongside Reducing Animal Stress, Council District 11, and local vendors. Sponsorship would include use of the VNC logo on promotional materials, outreach through VNC communication channels, and an on-site VNC booth to engage stakeholders. A perfect opportunity for other VNC Committees to showcase their projects and highlight upcoming Town Halls and events.

Motion 06-26-VNC

The VNC Board approves becoming a sponsor of the free event "Paws in the Park Pet Resource Faire" at Penmar Park in April 2026. Sponsorship allows the VNC to participate in planning, display the VNC logo on promotional materials, publicize the event through VNC communication channels, and engage stakeholders on-site through our VNC outreach booth with participation from the Outreach Team and other interested committees.

- 3. Outreach Committee--Motion for a Newsletter: (See Supporting Documents)**

Motion 07-26-VNC

The VNC Board approves the adoption of the sample Newsletter template with adjustments. This newsletter would be sent out biweekly and include relevant information related to the VNC for Venice Stakeholders, including upcoming events, committee meetings, and ways to get involved.

- 4. LUPC: Commercial uses in Industrial Zones -LUP Policy I.C.1.Industrial Land Use (Committee Vote 5-2-2)**

City Council File: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-1282>

Council Motion (Park): https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2025/25-1282_misc_10-28-25.pdf

Certified Land Use Plan excerpt for Industrial Land Use Designation:

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6987987584c99.pdf>



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Motion 08-26-VNC

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the motion in City Council File 25-1282 to amend the certified Venice Land Use Plan to clarify Policy I.C.1. Industrial Land Use, to explicitly prescribe that commercial uses are permitted on industrially designated land, on the condition that high quality industrial uses and artist studios/“artist studios with residences” are the priority uses over commercial use. CIS for Council File 25-1282.

5. Homelessness Committee: Family Reunification: (Committee Vote 5-0)

Motion 09-26-VNC

VNC board requests CD 11 in conjunction with relevant VNC committees expand awareness and publicity regarding the existence of a family reunification program aimed at reuniting local unhoused stakeholders with housing in their home region funded by CD 11; staffed daily on the boardwalk, by West coast Cares, by bringing awareness to all community members, especially service providers such as St Josephs, Bible Tabernacle, BID , Circle, and the Venice Family Clinic. We also request a report back detailing how said publicity has been implemented.

VOTE on Consent Calendar, excluding Item C.1.:

Motion Made By: David Feige Seconded By: Alley Bean
12: Yes (AB, CB, JF, YG, KL, MM, SR, EM, GP, NR, FS, RS)
2: No (HF, SM)
3: Abstain (TH, LR, DF)
Motion passes.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Action on Consent Item 10-26-VNC, and Stakeholder Motion 11-26-VNC

A. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR Items deemed to be routine and non-controversial. Any board member or stakeholder may ask a clarifying question or offer good cause as to why an item on the consent calendar should be removed and addressed as a separate agenda item prior to the end of the meeting. Pursuant to VNC Standing Rule 14 “The Chair shall have sole discretion to determine what constitutes good cause.”

1. Parking and Transportation Committee: Allowing Release of the Venice Bikeway Network Questionnaire (See Supporting Documents) (Committee Vote: 5-0-1, 1 absent)

Brief Description:

Venetians use bicycles five times more than the average Angeleno. However, the City’s Mobility2025 Plan shows a very minimal bikeway network in Venice. The Parking, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is proposing a much more robust Venice Bikeway Network that may eventually lead to safer bicycle use throughout Venice. The Committee wants the public to comment on the proposed plan, including through a questionnaire. Link in Supporting Documents.



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Motion 10-26-VNC

The Venice Neighborhood Council approves the release of the Parking, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee questionnaire on its proposed Venice Bikeway Network, with a six-week public review period.

VOTE:

Motion Made By: David Feige Seconded By: Alley. Bean

13: Yes (AB, CB, JF, YG, TH, KL, MM, SM, SM, GP, NR, FS, RS)

2: No (HF, EM)

2: Abstain (LR, DF)

Motion passes.

B. Stakeholder Lisa Redmond: Motion to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform

Brief Description:

The City of Los Angeles is undertaking one of the most significant governance conversations in a generation: the reform and potential rewriting of the Los Angeles City Charter. This process will determine how power is distributed, how communities are represented, how city services are delivered, and how

Neighborhood Councils function in the decades ahead. For a community as diverse, complex, and uniquely impacted by citywide policy as Venice, meaningful participation in this process is essential.

Venice faces distinct challenges and opportunities—ranging from land-use pressures to coastal regulations, from tourism impacts to infrastructure needs, from public safety concerns to the ongoing evolution of local representation. The Charter Reform process presents a rare opportunity for the Venice community to articulate what governance structures, accountability mechanisms, and city systems would best support its future. A dedicated VNC Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee is necessary to ensure that:

1. Venice stakeholders have a structured, transparent forum to voice their priorities, concerns, and aspirations for the future of Los Angeles governance.
2. Community input is proactively gathered, not merely received, through outreach, listening sessions, surveys, and engagement across all segments of the Venice population.
3. Venice’s unique needs are translated into clear recommendations and Community Impact Statements that can be formally submitted to the City’s Charter Reform Commission and the Los Angeles City Council.
4. The VNC Board receives well-researched, community-driven guidance to inform its positions on Charter reform matters.
5. Venice retains a strong voice in shaping how Neighborhood Councils—and the broader City government—will function in the future.

Without this committee, Venice risks being underrepresented in a once-in-a-generation civic process that will shape the City’s political, structural, and democratic landscape. Establishing a Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee ensures that Venice’s experiences, values, and priorities are not only heard but elevated and incorporated into the reform dialogue.

In short: the committee is essential to protect Venice’s interests, empower its stakeholders, and ensure that the neighborhood plays an active role in defining the future governance of Los Angeles.



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Motion 11-26-VNC

The Venice Neighborhood Council moves to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform for the purpose of engaging Venice Stakeholders in shaping recommendations for the City of Los Angeles Charter Reform process.

This Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of up to seven (7) members, including at least one (1) Board member, and may include community Stakeholders with interest or relevant experience. The Committee will automatically sunset on October 31, 2026, unless extended by Board action.

The Committee will be advisory only, will not speak on behalf of the Venice Neighborhood Council without prior Board approval, and will comply with all Brown Act requirements if determined to be a standing committee.

Mission Statement of the Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform:

“The mission of the Venice Neighborhood Council Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform is to gather, document, and elevate the needs, concerns, and aspirations of Venice Stakeholders regarding the future structure and governance of the City of Los Angeles. The Committee will actively solicit community input, identify Venice-specific priorities, and develop clear, community-driven recommendations and Community Impact Statements for submission to the Charter Reform Commission and for consideration by the VNC Board.”

Committee Tasks and Scope The Ad Hoc Committee shall be authorized to:

1. Engage Venice Stakeholders—including residents, renters, homeowners, unhoused neighbors, businesses, artists, civic groups, and youth, among others—to gather feedback on their priorities for Charter reform.
2. Develop outreach methods, such as surveys, listening sessions, workshops, or online feedback tools, to ensure inclusive community participation.
3. Identify Venice-specific needs and concerns related to governance, representation, public safety, land use, city services, ethics, accountability, neighborhood council authority, and other areas that may be affected by Charter reform.
4. Synthesize Stakeholder input into clear written recommendations that reflect the community’s expressed priorities.
5. Draft Community Impact Statements, position letters, and reports to recommend to the VNC Board for approval and subsequent submission to the Charter Reform Commission and other relevant bodies.
6. Analyze possible impacts of proposed reforms on neighborhood representation, budget authority, governance structure, land-use process, ethics rules, and other areas relevant to Venice Stakeholders, and communicate to the Board and Venice Stakeholders important information that will impact the community.
7. Provide updates to the VNC Board, including summaries of community feedback and draft recommendations for Board consideration.

Amendment: Strike the word “process” at the end of the first paragraph and add “provide a report to the Board by March 24, 2026.”

VOTE on amendment:
 Motion Made By: Ted Henderson Seconded By: Fran Solomon
 10: Yes (JF, YG, TH, KL, MM, SM, GP, NR, FS, RS)
 4: No (HF, SM, EM, LR)
 3: Abstain (AB, CB, DF)
Motion passes

The question was called and passed 16-0-1



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VOTE on main motion, as amended:

Motion Made By: Lisa Redmond. Seconded By: Erica Moore

14: Yes (AB, HF, JF, TH, KL, MM, SM, EM, SM, GP, LR, NR, FS, RS)

1: No (CB)

2: Abstain (YG, DF)

Motion passes

C. Appointment of Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform. (Conditioned on Passage of Prior Motion)

The new committee having been established, the Chair appointed Lisa Redmond and Robin Rudisil as co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles City Charter Reform.

The Board confirmed the appointment:

13: Yes (AB, HF, JF, TH, KL, MM, SM, EM, SM, LR, NR, FS, RS)

0: No

3: Abstain (YG, GP, DF)

Motion passes

Note: Clark Brown left the meeting just prior to this agenda item.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments from the public on **non-agenda items** within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed 1 minute unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the meeting.

All business having been successfully discussed and all motions having successfully been voted upon the board moved on to General Public Comment. Among other comments, a song from the old Carol Burnett show was sung— “I’m so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say, so long.”

Public Comment having been concluded, the meeting was:

V. ADJOURNED at 11:05 PM