



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



Ad Hoc L.A. City Charter Reform Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

7:00 PM

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

Lisa Redmond	Helen Fallon
Robin Rudisill	Rick Garvey
David Ewing	Gary Pearl

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (none)

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Lisa Redmond gave a summary of the background of and reason for the City Charter Reform Commission, whose recommendations are due to City Council in early April and must be voted on by City Council by the end of June, for November ballot consideration. The committee discussed a plan of action, including outreach strategies to inform stakeholders about charter reform issues and ask for input. Committee members reviewed topics of interest. 15-20 priority topics were identified – see below.

A. Discussion of plan of action

Plan ideas shared, based on committee and public comment:

- Obtain schedule of April – June City Council meetings as soon as available (once the Charter Reform Commission provides City Council their recommendations).
- The goal is to submit a CIS to Council File 25-0869 (or other appropriate CF) with recommendations on selected reform issues.
- Council File 25-0869 has the initial Report on Outreach & Engagement Plan from the Charter Reform Commission, dated 8.1.25.
- Conduct a “dynamic survey,” including room for added comments, that can be updated based on ongoing feedback.
- Work with Outreach and Communications to send out a VNC blast to inform email list--consider weekly or just prior to committee meetings.



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- Need to reach more than the VNC email list.
- Use other organizations' email lists.
- Encourage people to pass on the information.
- Put out information in a newsletter – initially provide a succinct statement of what Charter Reform is and why *it's important to people*.
- Provide useful links.
- Leverage Chamber and other community organizations.
- Consider educating stakeholders about selected proposals' pros & cons rather than conducting surveys.
- Local media outlets – YoVenice, MarVista Voice, WestsideCurrent, CitiWatch.
- Press release?
- Share with other NCs?
- Consider independent, grassroots media creation using smartphones and editing software.
- Use simple flyers with QR codes to reach a broader audience.
- Get more meetings calendared (can always cancel if don't need them all).
- Next meeting Thursday March 19th, 6 pm.

B. Discuss and choose topics for recommendations to Charter Reform Commission/City Council and possible Motion

Limit topics to no more than 15-20

Potential topics for VNC recommendations, based on committee roundtable and public comment:

- Parkland sell off (we need more parks in L.A.)
- Neighborhood Council advisory role more formalized/structured
- City Council, City Council committees & City commissions to make provision for NCs to comment via zoom or telephone
- Lower voting age to 16 for City & LAUSD elections
- Expand voting for City & LAUSD elections to non citizen
- Ranked Choice Voting
- Number of Councilmembers for city of 3.9 million
- Replace Area Planning Commissions with a 5-member Neighborhood Appeals Commission
- Infrastructure Funding, Planning and Budgeting
- Elected vs Appointed City Attorney
- Requirement for Local Coastal Program (LCP)
- Accountability – financial and performance/ROI and transparency
- Transparency on allocation of sales taxes
- Police accountability/reform (to elected officials, not only Police Commission)
- Protect protest and 1st amendment rights



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Other related ideas/potential topics:

- Evaluate how spending is done and accounted for throughout the City
- System for City-approved vendors and contract restrictions
- Require bidding/open negotiations for City contracts including labor contracts
- Control over sale of city property
- VNC to create promotional materials and outreach efforts to increase awareness of Neighborhood Councils and their role in representing community voices
- Develop more citizen participation
- City to promote Neighborhood Councils so that more citizens know about them and the benefits
- Inform public on how to address City issues they care about, i.e. how to submit to a Council File
- Better coordination between City departments and LAUSD
- How to address issues like flood insurance and FEMA
- Venice to consider separating from the City through Charter Reform/"Vexit"
- Concern about City spending and waste in homeless services and housing

V. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.