



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



Ad Hoc L.A. City Charter Reform Committee

MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. All members were in attendance:

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

II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March 10th meeting were approved unanimously.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)

Lionel Mares gave an update on the City Charter Commission’s meetings and status. Lydia Ponce gave appreciation to the committee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible motion on plan of action

Motion: The Venice Neighborhood Council approves the following dynamic “Action Plan” steps for the Ad Hoc Charter Reform Committee, to be adjusted at each meeting as we move forward:

- 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 blasts or sending a blast just prior to committee meetings.
- Need to reach more than the VNC email list.
- Use other organizations’ email lists.
- Leverage Chamber and other community organizations.



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- 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.
- 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.
- VNC to create promotional materials and outreach efforts to increase awareness of Neighborhood Councils and their role in representing community voices.
- VNC to develop more citizen participation.
- VNC to inform public on how to address City issues they care about, i.e. how to submit to a Council File & for City Charter Reform – do as part of outreach, show them how to write their own letters to the Council File.
- Use simple flyers with QR codes to reach a broader audience.

Moved by Robin, seconded by Gary

Motion approved: 6-0-0

B. Possible motion on outreach

The committee did not feel the need for a motion on outreach.

C. Possible motion on topics for recommendations to Charter Reform Commission/City Council

Motion: The Venice Neighborhood Council approves the following topics, with the assignments to committee members indicated, for VNC recommendations to the Charter Reform Commission/City Council:

- Parkland sell off (we need more parks in L.A.) **(Gary & David)**
- Neighborhood Council advisory role more formalized/structured **(Robin – to research any issues related to land use in the Charter)**
- City Council, City Council committees & City commissions to make provision for NCs to comment via zoom or telephone **(Robin)**
- City to promote Neighborhood Councils so that more citizens know about them and the benefits **(Robin)**
- Lower voting age to 16 for City & LAUSD elections **(Helen)**
- Expand voting for City & LAUSD elections to non-citizen **(Helen)**
- Ranked Choice Voting **(Helen)**
- Number of Councilmembers for city of 3.9 million **(Lisa)**



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- Replace Area Planning Commissions with a 5-member Neighborhood Appeals Commission **(Robin & David)**
- Elected vs Appointed City Attorney **(Rick)**
- Police accountability/reform (to elected officials, not only Police Commission) **(Rick)**
- Protect protest and 1st amendment rights **(Rick)**
- Requirement for Local Coastal Program (LCP) **(David & Robin)**
- Infrastructure Funding, Planning and Budgeting **(Gary)**
- Better coordination between City departments and LAUSD **(Gary to research possibilities)**
- Accountability – financial and performance/ROI and transparency; concern about City spending and waste in homeless services and housing; Controller/CAO/CFO; transparency on allocation of sales taxes; 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 **(Gary & David, with Helen & Lisa as back up – Gary will research and propose how to organize this group of items)**

Moved by Robin, seconded by Helen

Motion approved: 6-0-0

It was noted that part of our research is looking at recommendations from Neighborhood Councils and other groups or individuals, on the City Charter Reform Commission website.

Nick A. noted that we should always note how a given topic relates to Venice. The Committee agreed to include this in the proposed recommendations.

Committee members will bring preliminary recommendations (and ideas for how to organize some of the areas) in the areas assigned to the next meeting

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.