



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
www.VeniceNC.org



MINUTES

Venice Neighborhood Council Board SPECIAL MEETING—Review Bylaws Proposals Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, 6:30 pm

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

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Webinar ID: 822 2050 5467

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IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JANUARY 1, 2026, ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 707 (DURAZO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL FILE 23-1114, THE VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY. See also SB 707 information at the end of this agenda.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento.

Por favor contacte Tima, Secretaria, al electrónico Secretary@Venicenc.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 1 minute per speaker, unless, adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL **Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm**

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

Clark Brown & Joseph Garcia absent for all items, Brennan Lawson, Kenya Lee & Nico Ruderman absent for item 5.

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II. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND/OR RECUSALS (POST-FILING ONLY) (2 minutes)

III. NEW BUSINESS

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Because of the complex and unwieldy issues before us which include the nature (size and representational system) of the composition of the board, we will be addressing a series of questions which, when answered will determine which parts of which of the competing proposals we will be adopting or refusing to adopt. In the end, we may (or may not) change the composition and size of the board, the method of representation, and the duties and powers of several of the officers.

We will have discussion and possible action on each of the following ISSUES after which we will vote on each of the subsidiary questions as needed. To be clear: **Public and Board Comment shall be on each ISSUE not each QUESTION, but voting shall take place on each QUESTION. Please remember that because these are all by-law amendments, each question will require 14 votes for passage.**

PLEASE REVIEW ALL OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDING:

From the Petitioner, the supporting documents titled:

"Petitioner's Proposed Map (Interest Representation System)"

"Petitioner's Proposed Boundaries (Interest Representation System)"

"Petitioner Changes to Board Composition"

From the Rules Committee the supporting documents titled:

"Rules and Elections Proposed Map (District Representation System)"

"Rules and Elections Committee Proposed Boundaries (District Representation System)"

"Rules and Elections Changes to Board Composition"

"Rules and Elections Explanation of Proposed Changes"

Finally Please Review in Detail the supporting document titled:

"List of Non-Controversial or Minor Provisions"



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ISSUE 1: District vs Interest Representation: (60 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 15 Minutes) (Board Discussion 30 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 15 Minutes)

EXPLANATION: District Representation means dividing Venice into areas of approximate equal population. **Interest Representation** means dividing Venice into areas which have similar concerns. The question here is: Is equitable population more important, or are similar concerns more important? A division by District Representation has been proposed by The Rules Committee, whereas a system of Interest Representation has been proposed by the petitioners.

QUESTION 1: SHALL THE BYLAWS BE CHANGED FROM THE CURRENT AT-LARGE SYSTEM TO A SYSTEM OF EITHER INTEREST OR DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

If Yes go to question 2.

Motion fails, see vote table at end.

If No, move on to the next issue.

QUESTION 2: SHALL THE BYLAWS BE AMENDED TO CREATE AN INTEREST BASED SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATION?

If YES:

The changes proposed by the petitioners as well as the map and area descriptions offered by petitioners shall be deemed approved and shall replace the current at-large system as indicated in the Supporting Documents Titled "Petitioner's Proposed Map (Interest Representation System)" and "Petitioner's Proposed Boundaries (Interest Representation System)" and "Petitioner Changes to Board Composition"

If No move on to Question 3.

QUESTION 3. SHALL THE BYLAWS BE AMENDED TO CREATE A DISTRICT REPRESENTATION SYSTEM?

If YES:

The changes proposed by the Rules Committee and the Map Proposed by the Rules Committee will be deemed approved and will replace the current at-large system as indicated in the Supporting Documents Titled "Rules and Elections Proposed Map (District Representation System)" and "Rules and Elections Committee Proposed Boundaries (District Representation System)" and "Rules and Elections Changes to Board Composition"

If No: Move on to Issue 2.



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ISSUE 2: Election of Committee Chairs: (45 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 10 Minutes) (Board Discussion 20 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 15 Minutes)

EXPLANATION: Currently Article X Section 2(C) of the bylaws provide for the separate election of a Land Use and Planning Committee Chair, One Communications Chair, and an Outreach Chair. Allowing the appointment of these positions would reduce the board size, while still allowing for a representational system as provided in Issue 1.

QUESTION 1: Do we want to further reduce the number of Board members by allowing the appointment of one or more of the chairs. **Motion fails, see vote table at end.**

If YES, move on to questions 2-4, if NO move on to the next issue.

QUESTION 2: Shall the President appoint the Outreach Chair?

If YES Article V Section (2)(c)(4) shall be amended to strike out "One (1) Vote for Outreach Chair" and the size of the board shall be reduced by one.

QUESTION 3: Shall the President appoint the Communications Chair?

If YES the Article V Section (2)(c)(4) shall be amended to strike out "One (1) Vote for Communications Chair" and the size of the board shall be reduced by one.

QUESTION 4: Shall the President appoint the Land Use Planning Committee Chair?

If YES the Article V Section (2)(c)(4) shall be amended to strike out "One (1) Vote for Land Use Planning Committee Chair" and the size of the board shall be reduced by one.

ISSUE 3: The Administrative Committee (30 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 10 Minutes) (Board Discussion 15 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 5 Minutes)

EXPLANATION: The Administrative Committee determines whether or not a proposed agenda item should be referred to committee or included on the agenda. The proposal is to eliminate it but lower the number of stakeholder signatures necessary to mandate board consideration.

QUESTION 1: Do we want to eliminate the Administrative Committee (AdCom) and allow the President to set the Agenda subject to stakeholder mandated inclusion?

If yes, then the redline changes that would eliminate the Administrative Committee will be deemed adopted. **Motion fails, see vote table at end.**

QUESTION 2: Do we want to reduce the number of signatures necessary for stakeholders to mandate Board consideration of an issue from 60 to 50?

If YES, then the redline changes reducing the number of stakeholder signatures from 60 to 50 will be deemed adopted. **Motion carries, see vote table at end.**



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ISSUE 4: The Vice President (20 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 7 Minutes) (Board Discussion 10 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 3 Minutes)

EXPLANATION: The changes proposed by the Rules Committee would make the Vice President responsible for ensuring that regularly scheduled committee meetings do not conflict but eliminate the Vice President’s responsibility for overseeing Committees,

QUESTION 1: Shall the role of the Vice President be limited to ensuring that regularly scheduled committee meetings do not conflict?

If YES then the Rules Committee’s Amendment to Article VI(2)(B) as shown in *Rules Committee Final Redline* shall be deemed adopted

Amended to add: “ensures that committee meetings will not be held simultaneously,” motion carries, see vote table at end.

ISSUE 5: Clarifying Non-Substantive or Minor Changes (30 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 7 Minutes) (Board Discussion 20 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 3 Minutes)

Explanation: There are several places where the BYLAWS could use some clarity and clean up. For example, things not being in Alphabetical Order, The duties of the Treasurer could use some clarifying (and the way the Council is referred to can be simplified).

QUESTION 1: Shall the non-substantive changes, including those contained in the supporting document titled “Non-controversial or minor provisions” be adopted?

If YES, then approve the changes contained in the red-line supporting document titled “Non-Controversial or Minor Provisions.”

Motion to table fails, main motion carries, see vote table at end.

ISSUE 6: Final Language Markup Implementation Group (15 Minutes)

(Public Comment: 5 Minutes) (Board Discussion 12 Minutes) (Voting on Questions as Necessary 3 Minutes)

Explanation: While the votes on the questions above will be determinative of the changes made to the BYLAWS, because of the complexity of the process a final red-line markup must be created and submitted to the City pursuant to the applicable statutes and rules. This provision will create an Ad Hoc Committee responsible for submitting the final version of the approved changes to the board for final approval and submission.

QUESTION 1: Shall the Board create a three-person markup implementation group to be chaired by the President and staffed by a non-board member representative of each proposal which shall be charged with the responsibility for delivering for approval a final red-lined version of the changes ratified by this process?

(Note: As is clear from the above, the mission statement is to deliver a red-lined final version, and the group shall disband upon delivery of the final version)

If YES, then a markup implementation group as described above is created.



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QUESTION 2: Shall the Board delegate to this Task Force the power to, by UNANIMOUS VOTE ONLY, make all ministerial changes necessary to effectuate the changes ratified by this process?

If Yes, then the Task Force may, by unanimous vote make all necessary changes to effectuate the changes ratified by this process and will be empowered to deliver to the board an official red-line document for final ratification.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes total, 1 minute each)

V. ADJOURNMENT **Meeting adjourned 9:42 pm.**

SB 707 UPDATES

In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative

body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. **California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(3).**

The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time.

California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(4).

Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment using an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate. California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(5), A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to paragraph (5), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed. **California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(A).**

A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to paragraph (5), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

California Government Code Section 54953.8(b)(6)(B).

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling 213-978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.VeniceNC.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC Secretary, email at: Secretary@VeniceNC.org.

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Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

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Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org



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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS

For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website www.VeniceNC.org

2026 VNC Apr. Special Meeting Agenda Minutes

6:33 Start

Clark, Joe, Nico Absent at time of Roll Call

Ex Parte – None


Explanation by President of approach to agenda

Nico arrived 7:15PM

Issue 1, Question 1 – David, Jason – Motion Fails (no further motions under Issue 2)

Issue 2, Question 1 David, Alley – Motion Fails (no further motions under Issue 2)

Issue 3, Question 1 David Alley – Motion Fails

Issue 3, Question 2 David, Alley – Motion  **Carries**

Issue 4 – Question 1 Amend to add the words “ensures that committee meetings will not be held simultaneously” - Motion Carries

Issue 5 David, Gary – Motion Carries

Motion to Table David, Gary – Motion Fails

Meeting Adjourned 9:42

	Roll Call	Issue 1 Question 1	Issue 2 Question 1	Issue 3 Question 1	Issue 3 Question 2	Issue 4	Issue 5 Motion to Table	Issue 5
David Fiege	x	abstain	Abstain	Abstain	abstain	abastain	abstain	abstain
Gary Pearl	x	n	n	n	y	y	n	y
Tima Bell	x	n	n	n	y	abstain	n	y
Helen Fallon	x	y	n	n	n	y	y	n
Mark Mack	x	y	n	n	y	y	n	y
Soraya Moss	x	n	n	y	y	y	n	y
Erica Moore	x	y	n	n	y	y	y	n
Alley Bean	x	y	n	n	n	y	n	y
Brennan Lawson	x	y	n	n	y	y	n	absent
Clark Brown	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Jason Sugars	x	abstain	n	n	y	y	y	y
Jim Fitzgerald	x	n	n	y	n	y	n	y
Joseph Garcia	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Kenya Lee	x	y	n	y	y	y	absent	absent
Lisa Redmond	x	y	n	n	y	y	y	n
Nico Ruderman	absent	n	n	n	y	y	absent	absent
Richard Stanger	x	y	n	n	n	y	n	y
Sarah Mahir	x	y	n	n	y	abstain	y	n
Ted Henderson	x	y	y	y	n	y	n	y
Yolanda Gonzalez	x	y	y	y	n	y	n	y
Fran Solomon	x	n	n	n	y	y	n	y
TOTALS		6-11-2-2	2-16-1-2	5-13-1-2	12-6-1-2	16-0-3-2	5-11-1-4	11-4-1-5