



Venice Neighborhood Council

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VNC Neighborhood Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 8, 2015

Meeting Time: 7:30AM to 9:00AM

Meeting Location: Terrace Restaurant, 7 Washington Blvd, Venice, CA 90292

Contact: Marc.Saltzberg@VeniceNC.org see: VeniceNC.org/neighborhood-committee for more information

1. 7:30AM – Welcome and Introductions – see VeniceNC.org/neighborhood-committee to see neighborhoods
2. 7:35 – Call to Order & Roll Call

Adam Glick	Present	John Weston	Present
Bill Boyd		Lydia Pelosi	Present
Carmen Navarro		Marc Saltzberg (Chair)	Present
Carolyn Rios		Marianna Aguilar	
Daniel Pinedo		Mark Kanights	Present
DeDe Audette	Present	Michael Nelson	Present
Jay Cole on-leave		Mike Newhouse (ex officio)	
Jerry Jaffe	Present	Nicholas Hippisley-Coxe	Present
Joan Wrede	Present	Sarah Shoup	Present
Joe Verrone	Present		
Guests: Isabelle Duvivier	Present	Josie Scibetta (representing Canals Neighborhood)	Present
George Francisco	Present	Martin Barocio (LAPD – West Traffic)	Present
Pete Abskharon (LAPD – SLO)	Present		

3. 7:40 – Approve Agenda [Motion NHC / AG approved 11-0-1](#)

7:45 – ANNOUNCEMENTS – Information about specific events important to Venice

- Isabelle let us know about the City's "Plant a Tree Program" – the city will plant a tree at no cost to the property owner if the owner gives permission. See: http://www.environmentla.org/pdf/2014/Theodore_Payne_Foundation_FlyerTA.pdf and <http://www.environmentla.org/treeplanting.cfm>
- George requested committee members to get involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. For more information contact George at: george.francisco@venicenc.org
- LAPD SLO Pete Abskharon said:
 - i. Burglaries were up 1% to 196 in 2014. Of these, 33 were "Hot Prowl" incidents where residents were on premises when the burglary occurred. Of those, 29 involved access via unlocked windows and doors. The message is obvious – Keep your windows and doors LOCKED!
 - ii. There was a 93% increase in Vehicle break-ins in 2014 – mostly because valuables and gifts were in left in plain sight.

5. 7:50 – PUBLIC COMMENT – non-agendized items related to Neighborhood Committee only.

6. 7:55 – Approve minutes from previous meetings – [12/04/2014 Postponed until 1/29/2015](#)

7. 8:00 – Report on Last VNC Board Meeting

8. 8:05 – Old Business:

- a. Bike Safety and Traffic Enforcement – Invited: LAPD West Traffic; LAPD SLO, & LAPD Beach Detail Supervisor
Incidents involving bicycle collisions with motor vehicles, pedestrians and other bicycles have been on the increase. A part of this problem is the result of implementation of the [Los Angeles 2010 Bike Plan](#) (resulting in restriping and 'sharrows'), which has made bicycling a larger part of our traffic mix. At the same time, regulations effecting bicycles (and motor vehicles interacting with bicycles) have changed. The goal of the discussion is to better understand LAPD's role in addressing the changed traffic environment and how we can better respond to it (both as the Neighborhood Committee and as the Venice Neighborhood Council).

Marc pointed out that any suggestions from the members of the Neighborhood Committee were personal and individual and did not constitute recommendations of the Committee or the VNC.

LAPD West Traffic Division Officer Martin Borocio described West Traffic's role as:

- Investigate Traffic Accidents
- Issue Tickets for Bicycle Violations (1 day a month)

LAPD SLO Pete Abskharon mentioned:

- He would see if the LAPD on-line training regarding bicycles could be made available to the public
- He suggested that PSA's on Bike Safety could be developed by LAPD
- The LAPD resource for PSA's is Officer Newsom. Pete will get us contact info and I'll distribute
- He mentioned signs that said "Drive Like Your Child Lives Here" – I've asked if he knows who is distributing?

Discussion with committee and officers:

- Bicyclists in accidents with vehicles often suffer severe injuries but make it harder on themselves:
 - Bikes, particularly at night, are VERY difficult to see. Bicycle headlights and reflectors are required for bikes but are frequently missing or don't work. Riders wear dark clothes.
 - Biking while texting, talking on phone, wearing ear buds is dangerous. Vehicle laws apply but are not always enforced.
 - Bikers frequently ignore traffic laws like stopping at stop signs & traffic lights, signaling for turns, riding wrong way, swerving through traffic.
 - Adult bicyclists are not required to wear helmets (state law) and many of them don't.
- The Officers did not identify any training resources (brochures / fliers / videos) for the public. **NOTE: a later search on-line found:**
 - www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/?1dmy&urile=wcm:path:/dmv_content_en/dmv/pubs/brochures/fast_facts/ffd137
 - <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bike/safety.html>
 - <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bike/sites.html>
 - <http://bicyclela.org/SafetyEtiquette.htm>
 - <http://bicyclela.org/BicycleProgram.htm>

These and other resources need further investigation for recommendations on brochures / fliers / video

- There are no "riding schools" for bicyclists like there the driving schools for car drivers and therefore no ability for bicyclists who receive traffic citations to attend school in lieu of paying a fine. This is a state issue.
 - Better signage, particularly for bike riders ("wrong way" would be a good one) would be helpful, particularly at intersections which are confusing (the intersection of California at Lincoln and at Brooks and Lincoln were mentioned as examples of confusing intersections because the east-west streets don't line up and lane lines are confusing) – these concerns should be referred to DOT. **NOTE: DOT will be invited to next or Feb mtg.**
 - Hot Spots for enforcement activities: 7th and Dewey, Oakwood between Venice and California (narrow street with lots of traffic – can DOT help?), Speedway (entire length, from end of MDR Peninsula to Navy)
 - Suggestion: City ordinance requiring bike rentals shops distribute bike safety fliers / brochures when renting
- b. Neighborhood Committee Outreach Program and Introduction Cards - Mark Kanights - **Postponed to next meeting**
 - c. Discussion: alternate representatives at Neighborhood Committee meetings - Josie Scibetta is alternate for Canals
 - d. Report from Neighborhood Committee Goals Coordinators - **Postponed to next meeting**
9. 8:30 – New Business:
 - a. Neighborhood Reports - **Postponed to next meeting**
 - b. 8:55 – Next Meeting: January 29th at 7:30PM Return to regular 4th Thurs schedule on Feb 26
 10. 9:00 – Adjourn