



# Venice Neighborhood Council



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## Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children Meeting**

**Voting Members (Present):** Joe Murphy (VNC DFC CoChair), Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church, Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design); **(Absent):** Paul Davis (VNC DFC CoChair, parent and architect), Joelle Dumas (VNC DFC CoChair, Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area).

**Community Members:** Benjamin Decker, Ashley Weller.

**Note:** Due to lack of a quorum, the below agenda is postponed to the January 4, 2021 meeting. An informal discussion nonetheless occurred focused primarily on the substance of the supporting document regarding students providing free tutoring services during the pandemic.

- 5:30** *Call to Order - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda*
- 5:31** *Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda*
- 5:35** *Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s): None*
- 5:35** *Initiative Updates & Presentations*
  - ✦ Robin Murez: [Venice Flying Carousel](#)
  - ✦ Paul Davis: Update of [Youth Internship Program](#)
  - ✦ Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Update of [Walkability Vision Goal](#) ideas for children:  
[Safe Pedestrian Access to Library & Slow \(Family Friendly\) Streets Program](#) &  
[Designing Streets for Kids](#)
  - ✦ John Palka: [Games for Children](#)
  - ✦ Joelle Dumas: [Child Care Advocate Program \(CCAP\)](#)
  - ✦ Regan Kibbee: [Venice Moms](#)
  - ✦ Sandy Bleifer: [LACMA Online Activities for Kids](#), [Learning Pods](#), Provide kids with Tech Tools
- 6:00** *Discussion of possible initiatives related to assisting children's educational and social growth during the pandemic, as summarized at our August 3, 2020 meeting:*

The discussion raised a variety of topics related to the impact of the pandemic on the education of children – including the need for teacher-student bonding and peer-to-peer socialization – and how to achieve these twin objectives in the context of the [Family Friendly Streets Initiative](#), particularly for K-5 children, in a way that could be a model for use effectively in all residential neighborhoods.

Among the ideas discussed was the possibility of using designated [Family Friendly Streets](#) for education pods (teacher-student bonding) and play/artwork areas (peer-to-peer socialization).

There was considerable skepticism about whether the [Family Friendly Streets Initiative](#) could be used to achieve this twin objective.

Other ideas were aired. One was to use parking lots or walk streets for these purposes. Another was the problems involved with reliance on webinars instead of in-school classes – issues then under discussion between school administrators, unions, and teachers and parents – and various hybrid options also came up.

There was no clear resolution of the matters raised except a clear interest in doing things which could help achieve the twin objectives via a model that could be emulated in all residential neighborhoods.
- 7:00** *Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, January 4, 2021*