



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015

Board of Officers Regular Virtual Meeting Agenda

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
When: April 20, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435860981>

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PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The public is requested dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. 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 30 seconds per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Venice Neighborhood Council PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015 It's YOUR Venice - get involved

Virtual Board Meeting Rules: • Raise your hand if you have a public comment only WHEN we get to that specific item. • After you speak, please lower your hand. • All panelists (board members) and attendees (public) will be muted until administrator Ira, Melissa or George unmute you for comment. • Board members will get one chance to speak for a max of 2 minutes per item. • Public comment is limited to 30 seconds per speaker with a total comment time not to exceed 10 minutes per agenda item, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. • PLEASE DO NOT RAISE YOUR HAND MORE THEN ONCE PER ITEM. • No ceding your time to others will be allowed • Any unheard items will be moved to the next meeting and agendized as "Old Business." The meeting is being video and audio recorded • The public will be able to listen and speak but their video will bedisabled. ALL PRESENTERS THAT HAVE ITEMS TO PROJECT ARE TO SEND THEM TO sec@venicenc.org



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& president@venicenc.org TO HAVE THEM SHARED WITH THE MEETING. KEEP A COPY OF THEM ON YOUR DESKTOP AS A BACKUP.

California State law (54953) allows zoom type meetings with the following requirements, majority of board members must be within the NC boundaries, the stakeholders are advised how to attend and that any vote be by roll call.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (7:00 PM) 7:02PM

PRESENT: Ira Koslow, George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Melissa Diner, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, ,Alex Neiman, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell

ABSENT: Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez, Jon Reed, CC Carter

2. Pledge Of Allegiance (7:01PM -- 1 minute)

3. Approval of the Agenda (PM – 1 minute)

GF, VH (15, 0, 1)

FAVOR: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Melissa Diner, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, ,Alex Neiman, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell

OPPOSED:

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow

9C to General new business

4. Approval of Board Minutes

5 Declaration of Ex Parte Communications or Conflicts-Of-Interest (PM -- 1 minute)

All Board members shall declare any ex parte communications or conflicts-of interest relating to items on this meeting's agenda.

6. Scheduled Announcements and Presentations

6A Previous Months Minutes have been emailed (7:15PM -1 minute)

Ensure the prior months minutes have been sent to ALL emails outlined by each motion writer from the previous month's motions.

6B Previous Months Letters (7:16PM -1 minute)

Ensure all letters have been sent for each item from the previous month and if NOT announce what letters are still outstanding and what information is needed in order to have them sent out.



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- 6C** **Spanish Translation Available** (Esteban Pulido, pulido.esteban@gmail.com)
Spanish Interpretation services and agendas are available with **advance notice**.
- 6D** **Public Safety - LAPD & LAFD Report (10 minutes)**: This report will now be given in writing by the Public Safety Committee.
- 6E** **Government Reports (15 minutes)** (Representatives have standing place on the agenda, but are not always available to attend or required to speak. The following written reports are for public dissemination and are also posted online (LINK))
- City Councilmember Mike Bonin Field Deputy, Nisa Kove nisa.kove@lacity.org
 - Congressman Ted Lieu, Representative Janet Turner, 310-496-9896 (janet.turner@mail.house.gov)
 - State Senator Ben Allen, Representative Liliana Pond (liliana.pond@sen.ca.gov)
 - State Assemblyperson Autumn Burke, West Los Angeles Field Representative, Brandon Stansell, (310) 412-6400, (brandon.stansell@asm.ca.gov)
 - LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl Westside Field Deputy Zac Gaidzik (310)231-1170, zgaidzik@bos.lacounty.gov
 - Mayor Eric Garcetti, Westside Deputy Brad Fingard brad.fingard@lacity.org
 - Empower LA Neighborhood Council Advocate, Freddy Cupen-Ames, 213-978-1551 (freddy.cupen-ames@lacity.org)

7:14PM CC Carter arrives

7:43PM John Reed

- 6F** **VNC President's Report & Announcements** - Ira Koslow (President@VeniceNC.org)
Please follow VNC Standing Rule 5: *Board Members & Committees must use the Online Agenda Request Form*

- 6G** **Election Report** (Ivan Spiegel, Election Administrator)

- 7.** **Treasurer's Report (10 minutes)** (Hugh Harrison on behalf of Budget & Finance Committee) (Treasurer@VeniceNC.org)
See attached addendums at <http://www.venicenc.org/minutes-and-agendas.php> [Discussion and possible action]

- 7A** **Approval of February 2021 Expenditure Reports**
MOTION: The Venice NC approves the expenditure reports for February 2021.
Recommended by Budget & Finance Committee 3-0-0 on 4-6-21 [ETD report](#) [MER](#)

HH, GF (16, 0, 1)



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PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez,, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell Jim Robb, Jon Reed, CC Carter

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow,

Not Present Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman expired financial training

7B Include a line item in City Budget for Venice Beach Recreation Center

MOTION: The VNC recommends that Mayor Eric Garcetti and the LA City Council include an annual line item listing for the "Venice Beach Recreation Center" commencing with the 2021-22 City Budget under the "Parks and Recreation Sites and Facilities Funds" heading.

(Recommended by Budget & Finance Committee 3-0-0 on 4-6-21)

Bruno Hernandez arrives 7:53PM

HH, GF (16, 0, 2)

PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell, Jim Robb, Jon Reed, CC Carter

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow, Bruno Hernandez

Not Present Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman expired financial training

8. **Announcements and Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (PM - 15 minutes)**

[Public comment is limited to 30 seconds per speaker with a total comment time not to exceed 15 minutes, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. No comment on Items appearing on the Agenda. No Board member announcements permitted]

9. **General Consent Calendar (PM -- 5 minutes)**

[All agenda items on the Consent Calendar will pass when the Consent Calendar is approved. No discussion or Public Comment is allowed on any item. Items may be removed by any board member or stakeholder. Removed items will go to the end of the agenda and be treated as regular agenda items with discussion and public comment.]

9A **Street Sweeping Alterations** (James Murez on behalf of the Parking & Transportation Committee) (james.murez@venicenc.org)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to DPW Street Services and CD11 requesting that the City restore weekly street sweeping to Venice. If alternate street sweeping must continue, the VNC recommends reconsideration of schedule to be weekly on



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all commercial and heavily impacted residential streets which serve beach and visitor access.

Recommended by Parking & Transportation Committee 6-0-0.

Removed by stakeholders

JM, SU

MR, SK (19, 0, 1)

PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell,, Jon Reed, CC Carter, Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman, Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow,

9B Support Community Forest Advisory Committee (Sarah Wauters on behalf of the Venice Arbor Committee) (sarahwauters123@gmail.com)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council supports the Community Forest Advisory Committee's position letter calling for an increase in the percentage of the city's overall budget allocated for support and development of the city's tree canopy from .25% to 1%, starting with the city's 2021-22 budget. Letters shall be sent to City Councilman Paul Krekorian, Chair, City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, Councilman Mike Bonin, and Mayor Eric Garcetti."

Recommended by Venice Arbor Committee 4-0-0 on 4-2-21.

Unanimous on consent

9C Lincoln Blvd – Proposed Cannabis Store (James Murez on behalf of the Parking & Transportation Committee) (james.murez@venicenc.org)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to the applicant, DCR, CC Planning Dept. and file a CIS (CF .21-0420-S39) as follows: The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends denial of permit request as presented due to inadequate parking plan. The applicant proposed valet parking using the nearby residential alley for customer loading and did not identify any off street parking location for customers, employees or the proposed valet service. Furthermore, the LADOT responded to VNC inquire about Trip Count of the current Retail Use (5/Hour) vs. proposed Retail Cannabis Use (20/hour) which requires the applicant to apply for and receive a Coastal Development Permit. No CDP is documented by the DCR case file nor did the applicant have one available at the Parking & Transportation Committee meeting.

Recommended by Parking & Transportation Committee 6-0-0.



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JM, JR

MR, AG to send to LUPC

(16, 3, 1)

PRESENT: Ira Koslow, Hugh Harrison, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell,, CC Carter, Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman, Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez

NO Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, Jon Reed,

ABSTAIN: George Francisco,

10. **LUPC (PM – minutes)** (Alix Gucovsky on behalf of LUPC, Chair-lupc@VeniceNC.org)

11. **Old Business (PM - 0 minutes)**
[Discussion and possible action]

12. **New Business (PM – minutes)**
[Discussion and possible action]

12A **Observation Deck - Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve** (James Murez)(james.murez@venicenc.org)

MOTION: Whereas, in the early 1990's a group of local citizens created a non-profit called Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve (BLMP) whose mission was to restore the banks of the lagoon with environmentally correct plant life and raise money to create a public observation deck where endangered wildlife could be viewed. (See Coastal Commission 1996 Permit <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/1996/1/W18b-1-1996.pdf>); and Whereas, the walkway and deck have continuously served the general public for recreation, to students and school field trips for educational uses; and

Whereas access to the area below the walkway and deck is causing a public nuisance and danger to the nearby homes because of the illegal cooking and open fires under the deck structure; and

Whereas these conditions create a high fire hazard environment to both the dry native plant life and structures in the dense surrounding residential neighborhood

Therefore Be It Resolved the the Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to LA County Supervisor Kuehl, CD11, LA City Rec and Parks Commission and LA City Public Works Commissioners, Coastal Commission Executive Director Jack Ainsworth

(John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov), Adel Hagekhalil, Gary Harris, Steven Chen requesting a solution be created that eliminates access to the area below the aerial walkway and lookout



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platform areas. Furthermore, the ADA compliant walkway and the lookout platform deck should be repaired and restored to a safe condition that allows public access. Lastly, we request that LAFD and LAPD become more actively involved with enforcing all safety and fire prevention regulations in this area.

JM, AG (19, 0, 1)
Unanimous

PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell,, CC Carter, Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman, Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, Jon Reed,

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow

12B Temporary Signs Need More Regulation (James Murez)(james.murez@venicenc.org)

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council submit a CIS (Council File 17-0893).stating the VNC is not in support of off-site advertising on Temporary Fences past the expiration date of LADBS construction or fence permit on which said advertising is attached. Furthermore, the VNC does not support any internally illuminated signs on Temporary Fences.

JM, SK (19,0, 1)
Unanimous

PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell,, CC Carter, Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman, Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, Jon Reed,

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow

12C Bus Landing Pads (James Murez on behalf of the Parking & Transportation Committee) (james.murez@venicenc.org)

MOTION: Whereas, the conditions at bus loading pads that exist at present in many locations throughout the Venice area exceed the maximum gap of ½", and Whereas a bicycle tire can easily get stuck in a gap over ½" causing a very dangerous condition for riders, and

Whereas the joint between the landing pad and street normally falls within the designated bike lane

Therefore be it resolved that the Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to Dept. of Public Works Commission, CC CD11 requesting all bus loading pads (concrete areas at bus



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stops) and the abutting asphalt street be maintained in such a way to reduce the gap between these two materials to less than 1/2" in width.

Recommended by Parking & Transportation Committee 6-0-0.

JM, VH 19, 0, 1)

Unanimous

PRESENT: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell, CC Carter, Melissa Diner, Alex Neiman, Jim Robb, Bruno Hernandez, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, Jon Reed,

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow

12D Resolution to Restore Full Funding for LAPD and Street Sweeping (mark.ryavec@venicenc.org)

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles has reduced the LAPD 2020-21 budget by \$155 million dollars; and

Whereas, this misguided action has resulted in a reduction of the Venice Beach Detail from 42 to 26 officers; and

Whereas, this has resulted in a recent spike in crime:

Car thefts (Officer Contreras and Officer Acosta car areas combined) up 37.5% Year Over Year for the reporting period between 1/1 and 1/30;

Aggravated Assaults (Officer Contreras and Officer Acosta car areas combined) up 214% Year Over Year for the reporting period between 1/1 and 1/30;

Total violent crimes (including aggravated assaults, robberies, rapes, and homicides, Officer Contreras and Officer Acosta car areas combined) up 233% Year Over Year for the reporting period between 1/1 and 1/30;

Total property crime (including burglary, GTA, burglary/theft from vehicle, and theft) (Officer Contreras and Officer Acosta car areas combined) up 18.5% Year Over Year for the reporting period between 1/1 and 1/30; and

Whereas, 41% of all aggravated assaults in Pacific Division occurred in the Venice district (from 2020 stats) and 45% of all aggravated assaults in 2020 involved a transient (from 2020 stats); and

Whereas, in response to a short fall in city revenues due to the pandemic, the city Bureau of Street Services has cut street sweeping from every week to every other week; and

Whereas, as temperatures warm and the City of Los Angeles eases pandemic-related closures and restrictions, it is anticipated that there will be a return of tens of thousands of visitors to Venice Beach, along with the presence of copious amounts of trash and debris on our streets; and



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Whereas, the City of Los Angeles will receive \$1.35 billion in new, unexpected funds from the recently passed American Rescue Plan; now,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the City of Los Angeles to fully restore the 2020-21 LAPD budget to its level as originally adopted, to continue that level of funding into subsequent years, return the Venice Beach Detail to its earlier strength, and return to every week street sweeping as soon as possible.

Upon passage this Resolution shall be sent as a Community Impact Statement to the councilman of the district (mike.bonin@lacity.org, nisa.kove@lacity.org), Mayor Eric Garcetti (Eric.Garcetti@lacity.org, brad.fingard@lacity.org), the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee (Committee Legislative Assistants: Keyonna.Kidd@lacity.org, Rita.Moreno@lacity.org and Dennis.Gleason@lacity.org), Dept. of Transportation GM Seleta Reynolds (seleta.reynolds@lacity.org) and Bureau of Street Services GM Adel Hagekhalil (adel.hagekhalil@lacity.org) **Ron Galprin** (ron.galprin@lacity.org)

MR, SK (16, 2, 2)

FAVOR: George Francisco, Hugh Harrison, Robert Thibodeau, James Murez, CJ Cole, Brian Averill, Vicki Halliday, Sima Kostovetsky, Soledad Ursua, Mark Ryavec, Alix Gucovsky, Tom McComas, Starla Caldwell,, Jon Reed, CC Carter, Melissa Diner,

AGAINST: Alex Neiman, Jim Robb

ABSTAIN: Ira Koslow, Bruno Hernandez

12E Presentation of Reese-Davidson Project (Ira Koslow)(president@venicenc.org) **(15 minutes)**
Becky Dennison of VCHC will present the Reese Davidson Project.

12F Presentation of rebuttal of Reese-Davidson Project (Ira Koslow)(president@venicenc.org) **(15 minutes)**
Venice Vision will present a rebuttal of the Reese-Davidson Project

NOTE: Items 12F and 12G are presentations only. There will be no discussion or public comment at this time. Following the presentations the Reese-Davidson project will be referred to LUPC for possible motions.

13A VNC Announcements and Reports (15 minutes)
[Committees may, but are not required, to provide a written report included below and available online. LINK]
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils-
Ira Koslow, VNC Representative (president@venicenc.org),

- Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) Ivan Spiegel (Parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org)
- Budget Advocates - Hugh Harrison, Treasurer
- Outreach Announcements - Sima Kostovetsky



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- 13B Board Member Announcements on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction- One (1) minute per Board member (5 minutes)**
- 14. Adjourn (approx. 11:00 PM)**

List of Venice Neighborhood Council Committees & Chairs – Volunteers Welcome

Standing Committees	Ad Hoc Committees
Administrative - Ira Koslow Neighborhood - George Francisco Outreach - Sima Kostovetsky Land Use and Planning - Alix Gucovsky Budget & Finance - Hugh Harrison Rules & Selections - John Reed Arts - Bruno Hernandez Ocean Front Walk - Jim Robb	Parking & Transportation - James Murez Resiliency - Keith Harrison Discussion Forum - Joe Murphy Venice Dog Park - Jamie Paige, James Murez Homeless - Frank Murphy Public Health & Safety - Soledad Ursua

BOARD MEETINGS: The Venice Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. All are welcome to attend.

TRANSLATION Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS: *In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5 the agenda and non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of regular and special meetings may be viewed at Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd), the Venice Library (501 S. Venice Blvd), and the VNC website (<http://www.venicenc.org>), or at the scheduled meeting. For a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact communications@venicenc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at: www.lacity.org/your-government/government-information/subscribe-meetings-agendas-and-documents/neighborhood*

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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the VNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.venicenc.org.

DISABILITY POLICY: 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 and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may



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be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting Melissa Diner, Secretary, at (310) 421-8627 or email secretary@venicenc.org.

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COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS (CIS): Any Board action with a City Council File # may result in the issuance of a CIS.

ALL AGENDA TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON THE NIGHT OF THE MEETING.