

This is a request that the **VNC Board**, at its August 17, 2021 meeting, renew the **Discussion Forum Committee** status as a VNC Ad Hoc Committee for a term of one year. **[Emphasis supplied in bold red print]**

Background:The **Discussion Forum Committee** is a VNC ad hoc committee approved by the VNC Board on April 17, 2012 and renewed for one year terms December 18, 2012, November 19, 2013, June 17, 2014, July 21, 2015, July 19, 2016, January 16, 2018, and June 18, 2019. Its mission, since its creation by the **VNC Board** in 2012, is:

Discussion Forum Committee Mission Statement

Provide a **monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the VNC Vision Goals***

*The VNC Vision Goals were adopted unanimously by the Board on April 21, 2009 as Standing Rule 20 (now 18) and amended unanimously by the Board on May 20, 2014 to insert the **Focus on Children Vision Goal**. For further information about the DFC, contact its chair Joe Murphy at 310-305-1444 or at joedmur@gmail.com.

To **stimulate the vitality** of the VNC, the Board and VNC Committees are encouraged to consider the below **VNC Vision Goals** in their deliberations.

Although the VNC is a political body, and inevitably it may become embroiled in issues that divide the community, these goals are designed to promote a more proactive, collaborative vision for VNC Committees to include in their deliberations as they formulate recommendations for Board consideration. The **intent** is to **create a working framework of integrated strategies** capable of achieving, over time, **broader consensus** and increased:

Focus on Children

Consider strategies that promote & expand opportunities for children to experience direct meaningful involvement in all aspects of the social and economic and cultural activities of the *Venice Community*. Include this **Focus on Children** as an integral part of the **consideration of strategies** in all of the below **Vision Goals**.

Participation

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate broader involvement of stakeholders, major organizations, community groups, and government institutions, etc.

Walkability

Consider strategies that reduce the use of cars and that promote alternatives such as walking, skateboarding, biking & bike racks, circulation systems (trolleys), park & ride rather than additional parking, street-narrowing/sidewalk widening, walk/bike/skateboard lanes separated from traffic, easier neighborhood pedestrian access to commercial stores, etc.

Diversity

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate realistic recommendations designed to increase economic diversity, including affordable housing, etc.

Creativity

Consider strategies that promote the arts, encourage & facilitate creativity. This can apply to architecture, public art, social events (neighborhood gatherings/street movies/theatre/dance/pottery/...), etc.

Collaboration

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate 'level playing fields' for collaborative negotiation; opt for procedures & policies that 'promote flexibility & dialogue' over 'reacting defensively to rigid criteria', facilitation/mediation training, etc.

Brainstorming

Consider strategies that encourage & facilitate exploring of non-traditional options for achieving shared objectives, etc.

Since 2012, although its membership and **Vision Goal** focus has fluctuated, its **intent** has been consistently adhered to – which is (within the context of the above unanimously Board adopted **VNC Vision Goals**) to:

... create a **working framework of integrated strategies** capable of achieving, over time, **broader consensus** ...

Evidence of this is the **Discussion Forum Committee's** recent involvement, with the **Homeless Committee**, in drafting and orchestrating presentations to the **VNC Board** and its adoption of the *Tiny Homes* and *Permanent Housing* motions – thereby providing the newly elected **VNC Board** with a **working framework** which may enable it to achieve, over time, a **broad consensus** and an **integrated strategy** capable of addressing the complex issue of systemic homelessness.

Sincerely,

DFC Co-chairs

Joe Murphy Paul Davis Joelle Dumas

* Please feel free to forward this email to others you believe may be interested.

* Your comments & insights in response to this email would be much appreciated. Please note, however, that, unless you state otherwise in your response, all or part of your response (including contact info) may be distributed to others deemed likely to be interested in your thoughts.

* Please feel free to contact me (Joe Murphy) at 310-305-1444 or at joedmur@gmail.com.