

Venice Arbor Committee (VAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, May 21, 2021, 1:00-2:30 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Contact: isabelle@idarchitect.com, sarahwauters123@gmail.com (Chair email)

• Call to Order and Roll Call

Sarah Wauters, Co-Chair (SW)			X
Isabelle Duvivier, Co-Chair (ID)			X
Mark Ryavec			X
Noel Johnston			X
Barry Campion			X
		Ira Koslow (ex-officio)	X

- **Approve Agenda as presented and amended. Noel motion to approve and Sarah W seconded.**
- **Approved Minutes from April 2, 2021 meeting as approved or amended. Sarah and Isabelle.**
- **Chair Report. ID - Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) update, including board meetings, and City budget. (CFAC is a group that advises and liaises to the City of Los Angeles, Public Works).** Isabelle Duvivier reported on business of CFAC: 1. With regard to Sidewalk Repair Lawsuit, which has caused the city to remove many trees, the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) finally came out, it took three years, was released May 14th, 2021. The city only gave the public 2 weeks to comment, and the city (?) voted to approve EIR anyway. CFAC complaints included that the EIR neglected to study any impact on wildlife, was based upon incomplete data, didn't include loss of other trees, assumed a tree is mature at 15 yrs, and didn't adequately address the alternatives, among other items. 2. Evisceration of the Mullholland Blvd _____ (?). The planning Director Vince Bertoni, produced a memo, said that the board will no longer need to see any project that does not directly touch Mulholland Blvd. CFAC quietly paying attention. 3. The New Budget has several positive items. Wildlife staff to be supported – added 2 people – Koretz agreed to fund Kate _____ (?). Designing guidelines how to develop projects. Max height fence, low lighting. New pruning crews, etc. 123 new tree oriented positions in the Budget. Rachel Malerich got an environmental planner, and a staff member to review EIRs. CFAC policy committee – release of street tree species list is shortly coming from Rachel Malerich's office.
- **Chair Report. SW - Pasadena Ordinance, if passed in Los Angeles, could offer ways to protect trees in Los Angeles. SRW introduced the possible consideration of the Palo Alto disclosure form and the practical effect of both requirements. Report on VAC's participation in the upcoming elections. Robin Murez suggested that it would be easy to get NC to pass motion to put into the planning land use. Robin Rudicill, Ally Bean. Suggested that we contact Andy Lipkis and David Herz – connect with or be on the committee. Contact other neighborhood councils. What about Santa Monica protective tree ordinance?**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agendized items related to Venice Arbor Committee only. Verdant Venice Group report – only 2 more work days needed to remove all the Agroperm on Venice Blvd. that is choking the California Sycamores, mulched and watered. Maintenance and planted trees for PK management, educational effort to get homeowners and interested neighborhoods to start up watering on every block. EVNA Emiko Kuwata handed in 21 new people for her neighborhood. Robin Murez recommends to get the news out to the – master gardeners at Westminster and Venice**

High as well as other groups around Venice. Give the info to the communications officer of VNC. Sima Kostowski.

- **Discussion about AB 672** – Noel Johnston introduces the discussion of AB 672. The bill requires city and counties with public golf courses to rezone and open up to affordable housing projects (required to have 25% of the units affordable) and open space. This would remove the parks protection and funding for golf courses so that municipalities can convert to housing. Golf association opposes. Isabelle thinks we need to find out more information. Michael will check with his lobbyist regarding the possible success of AB 672. We need to go to our assemblywoman – Autumn Burke.
- **Items for Discussion, Action, and Possible Motion - Overarching Goals of VAC:**
- Proposal – Bird’s Eye View - to create a Green Coastal Corridor map to show the green areas and the potential green areas of the entire Coastal Area, comprising the Santa Monica Mountains down to Ballona Wetlands. Goal is to create green pathways for wildlife to utilize and in effect also create greater urban canopy throughout. Isabelle to elaborate. *SRW to send the map of Ballona wetlands that Isabelle Duvivier did as an example. Isabelle explained her work on the Ballona map. Noel feels that trees need to be the focus to stay on in this mapping exercise. Barry – missed opportunity the area that includes Penmar, marine park, linked in some way – tree planting to be coordinated – its an existing green area that could be enhanced.*
- *Introduction of Parking Lot Project* – Large open paved areas – Whole Foods, Ralphs, and other large areas would be incorporated into the above overarching plan. Noel to report on her activities. *Robin Murez thinks that the parking lot project is a very important – and in the parkways. We should be able to point to our successes – Robin has trailer. Isabelle adding – Verdant Venice Group – two groups in Mar Vista – Mar Vista Arbor Group, Mar vista Westdale Group. Big Concept – need to do a bigger picture so that in certain areas, we plant a more riparian tree, plant trees that are not necessarily on the city list. Kate _____ spoke of her input to the community plan - it is a big wishlist. Does have a design land use element. There is a requirement for landscaping on parking lots etc. but there’s no accountability. Barry – proposal – Rachel working on it – requirement for developer to plant trees in the parkway.*
- Education of Public regarding trees – website, signage, outreach to all communities to enlist in caring for trees over a long, dry, summer.
- Protection of private property trees – legislation based on either Palo Alto – tree disclosure form requires that they swearing – good tool - on permit and on plans. or Pasadena up to the city council offices? *Robin suggesting that each developer, before LUPC must come to tree committee first before they can get their project through, disclosure form, must come to us before going to LUPC. Whomever is the new chair should probably support. She supports the disclosure form that shows on the property plans. A member staff reports are very meager. First hurdle would to require the disclosure as part of the staff report.*
- Metro Bus Depot. This item was cut short, table for the next meeting.
- Coeur d’Alene Tipu Trees – This item was cut short, table for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS