



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org)



## Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Canal Club (310-823-3878)  
2025 Pacific Avenue (near North Venice Boulevard)  
Venice, California 90291  
No Host Refreshments Available

*"Given that each of us lives in a different world, what can we do to minimize misunderstandings?"*

### Agenda

[140506VNCDiscussionForumMeetingAgenda.pdf](#)

**7:00 Call to Order** ■ **Public Comment on items not on the agenda**

**7:05 Continuation of Discussion from the April 1, 2014 Meeting**

**JDM Status Report:** The DFC now consists of eight active members. There's likely to be a lull in interest in the DFC until a couple of months after the May 18, 2014 VNC election when standing committees gear up and Ad Hoc committees are renewed. In the meantime, I'm looking for interested and interesting new members.

As to our focus on **Walkability**, recent state & local publicity indicates that the city is committed to moving in the right direction and is taking action to change LA from a predominantly automobile to a predominantly pedestrian orientation. I believe this means that our DFC role can now consist of making a motion to the board to endorse the many **Walkability** ideas the DFC has generated and to commit the VNC to encouraging and supporting any individual or group deciding to implement any of these ideas.

As to the future DFC focus on critical Venice issues, suggestions surfacing at our March 4 and April 1 meetings were:

- (i) **Nick Antonicelli:** Return fair share of LA taxes generated by Venice to Venice;
- (ii) **Donna Schubert:** Transportation – Transit Village (Parking/Transportation/Walkability);
- (iii) **Joe Murphy:** Economic Diversity - Housing;
- (iv) **Mehrnoosh Mojallali:** Public spaces;
- (v) **Joe Murphy:** Children;
- (vi) **DeDe Audet:** Flooding;
- (vii) **Nick Antonicelli:** Cityhood;
- (viii) **Abigail Myers:** Homeless & Housing & Mobility;
- (ix) **Joe Murphy:** Impact of **Brown Act** and **Public Records Act** on Neighborhood Councils;
- (x) **DeDe Audet:** Keeping tall buildings off of waterfront so that residents east of Venice can breathe healthy air (urban design).

This ongoing multi-meeting dialogue enables the DFC to routinely and continuously identify, review, refine, and improve upon the DFC focus on long-term complex **Critical Issues Facing the Venice Community**. I've provided my input below as an example intended to help each of us identify what we consider to be the most important critical long-term issues facing the Venice Community.

The below dialogue procedure has been used since the 140304 DFC Meeting & will continue to be used in future DFC meetings.

### **Identify Critical Issues Facing the Venice Community**

JDM is providing a guide to how to use the below procedure by inserting his current responses to its questions.

**What do you consider to be the single most important issue facing the Venice Community?**

**Economic Diversity** – ie: more less-expensive housing

**Why do you believe that this issue is critical to the future of the Venice Community?**

It's either more less-expensive housing or continuing the current pace of character-eroding gentrification

**What are the obstacles to resolving this issue?**

Land-use & other laws which prevent or discourage the creation of more less-expensive housing in Venice

**Time to raise & clarify misunderstandings.**

*[As needed at this or future DFC meetings where misunderstandings surface in discussions]*

**How can the DFC use its limited resources to help the Board address these long-term issues?**

Prioritize a long-term DFC focus on identifying how the land-use and other laws are preventing, or are being used or interpreted to prevent or discourage, the creation of more less-expensive housing in Venice and make suggestions on how these roadblocks can be overcome

**9:00 Adjourn**

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the Venice Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd.; Oakwood Rec Center, 767 California Street; The Venice Ale House, 425 Ocean Front Walk; Groundworks Coffee, 671 Rose Ave; Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.; Penmar Park & Rec Center, 1341 Lake St.; and at our website by clicking on the following link: <http://venicenc.org/>, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact [joedmurphy@ca.rr.com](mailto:joedmurphy@ca.rr.com).



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## Minutes of Prior DFC Meetings

**5/1/2012 & 6/11/2012 & 7/11/2012 & 8/11/2012** Formation & decision to focus on **VNC Walkability Vision Goal** ■ **9/11/2012** How can we encourage the residents and visitors of Venice to get out of their cars and spend more time enjoying our community as pedestrians? ■ **10/2/2012** How would we group the ideas from our last meeting into categories that illustrate the primary positive qualities that embody our vision of walkability in Venice? ■ **11/6/2012 & 12/4/2012** We have spent several sessions discussing **Walkability** and it is time to plan how we will complete work on this topic and report back to the VNC. Questions considered were:

**Product:** What will report cover and how will it be organized?

**Process:** What work needs to be completed and who will take responsibility for each piece?

**Schedule:** What are main tasks we need to complete going forward and when will each one be due?

■ **1/8/2013** At Sarah Dennison's suggestion, Ilaria Mazzoleni, an architect who focuses on sustainable ideas for the built environment, shared insights learned from research work on bike-sharing and related topics accomplished with her graduate and undergraduate students at SCI-Arc – a presentation which stimulated intense pragmatic discussion on how to pedestrianize urban communities. ■ **2/5/2013 & 3/5/2013** Discussion of **Plan for Presentation to Board** & how to implement walkability ideas received. ■ **4/2/2013 & 5/7/2013 & 6/11/2013 & 7/2/2013 & 8/6/2013 & 8/20/2013** Preparation & Delivery of **Presentation to Board:** (i) **Venice Walkability Study** **Venice Bike-Sharing Study Component**; (ii) Additions to **VNC Walkability Vision Goal Ideas Matrix**. ■ **9/3/2013** Debriefing of **Presentation to Board** & Discussion of future DFC options. ■ **10/1/2013 & 11/5/2013** Discussion of the **Modus Operandi (MO)** of the DFC. ■ **2/4/2014** Discussion of the **Modus Operandi (MO)** as presented by the DFC Chair. ■ **3/4/2014** Unanimous adoption of **Focus on Children Vision Goal** motion & of motion recommending consolidation of **Parking/ Walkability/Transportation (mobility)** issues into one VNC Committee; discussion per above agenda continued to **4/1/2014** meeting. ■ **4/1/2014** Discussion per above agenda continued to **5/6/2014** meeting.

## VNC Vision Goals

VNC Standing Rule 20 adopted unanimously 090421

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:

### 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.

## DFC Members

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## Upcoming DFC Meetings

(1st Tuesday of each month unless otherwise notified)

(post-5/18/2014 election & renewal of Ad Hoc DFC) **6/3/2014 - 7/1/2014 - 8/5/2014 - 9/2/2014 - 10/7/2014 - 11/4/2014 - 12/2/2014**