



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015

## Minutes: Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

February 11, 2019

5:30 – 7:30 PM, Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 4, 2019 (Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 5:30 – 7:30 PM).

**Voting Members (Present):** Joe Murphy (VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair), Paul Davis (parent and architect), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring); **(Absent):** Joelle Dumas (Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design)

**Community Members:** Connie Clotworthy (Worthy Beyond Purpose); Ron Harris II (Safe Place for Youth), Rachel Bindman (Los Angeles Public Library, Venice Branch Mgr), John Palka, PhD. (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Gwendoline Pere-Lahaille (parent and educator), Sandy Bliefer (artist and artist housing advocate), Heather Sky Hilary (artist, young person's arts educator), Carol Stein (Publisher, Venice Living Magazine), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), Roberta Tishman (Venice Resident).

Note: the following minutes are a distillation of agenda item discussions and free-form comments from the meeting, and also feature points of discussion introduced by attendees in follow-up correspondence.

**5:30** **Call to Order.** Jan 14, 2019 **FOC Formation Committee Meeting Minutes** and Feb 11, 2019 **Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting** Agenda adopted 3-0-0.

**5:31** **Introduction of Guests (John Palka, Carol Stein, Gwendoline Pere-Lahaille, Roberta Tishman)**  
**Announcements:**

[Sat 2/16 11am-4pm VNC Venice Hootenanny @ Oakwood Rec Ctr](#)

Tue 2/12 6pm SPY Host Home & HOMIE Programs

VNC Board Election Flyer

**Public Comment on items not on the agenda**

**5:50** **Consideration and adoption 3-0-0 of the following motion:**

### **Motion - Youth Internship Program**

**Whereas**, the Discussion Forum Committee of the VNC exists to "Provide a monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the VNC Vision Goals"; and

**Whereas**, the Discussion Forum Committee has resolved to turn its efforts to the "Focus on Children" Vision Goal; and

**Whereas**, the "Focus on Children" Vision Goal establishes that the VNC will "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"; and

**Whereas**, Internship with local agencies and businesses is an established means by which suitably mature young people may learn and grow in their capacity to be active community members on social, economic, and cultural fronts (in keeping with their personal and career interests), while providing useful service; and

**Whereas**, facilitation of a structured Youth Internship Program uniting eligible young people and local agencies, businesses and artists would be of meaningful benefit to Interns, their local hosts, and the community at large:

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*It's YOUR Venice - get involved!*

VNC Joint Board & Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Minutes

1 of 4 - Prepared 2/28/2019



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## Be it therefore resolved (Motion):

**That the VNC Board is supportive of the DFC's efforts to investigate and implement the creation of a Youth Internship Program, and that such a program could draw on the participation of DFC members and interested parties at the VNC and in the Venice community.**

This internship program would involve engagement with suitable staff at local middle schools, high schools, and agencies who may have access to interested young persons, as well as outreach with businesses and other accomplished entities who have the opportunity to host eligible interns. The internship program would promote the uniting of interested young people with organizations where they could serve for a period of time.

Any actual DFC/VNC activities directed at encouraging internships would be approved by the VNC Board in subsequent motions, upon DFC's presentation of further information regarding potential partners to the DFC in these efforts, appropriate eligibility requirements for interns (ie age range, etc.), any relevant guidelines and regulations, and appropriate measures for limiting potential liability. Findings in support of such future motions would be presented to the Board and the public at general Board Meetings.

## 6:10 Discussion

- **Administration** (Joelle Dumas, Paul Davis, Joe Murphy)
  1. An email to **Admin** (Joelle Dumas, Paul Davis, Joe Murphy) or to any one of these relating to this committee will be communicated to all three unless you indicate an alternative preference.
  2. Explain agenda format and selection of 1<sup>st</sup> Monday as regular monthly meeting date.
  3. Establish DFC voting members - If you are interested in becoming a DFC voting member, you are invited to do so but it is not essential to do so since our meetings will be informally administered & your thoughts and comments will be considered in all discussions. But if interested, please consider:
    - Is 1<sup>st</sup> Monday as the regular monthly meeting date OK with you? And if so ...
    - If you decide to be a voting member, consider whether you will be able to attend enough of the regular monthly meetings so that we can count on a quorum to be able to adopt motions. A quorum is 50% of voting members +1 = currently 3 members out of the 5 current DFC voting members (listed below).
  4. In future emails, only DFC voting members & **VNC board** will appear in the **To:** section & **DONE** will appear in the **Cc:** section. All others will receive emails via the **Bcc:** section.
- **Motions for future meetings**
  1. (Internship Program follow-up):
    - Mark can investigate LAUSD internship permissions/policies (also we can approach the Venice High counselor that Gwendoline is in touch with); Role of MOU/memo of understanding? Start small! (ie "Pilot Program" scale). Focus on one or a few industry sectors (2, initially) as a way of starting.
    - Use pre-existing internship structures where possible.
    - Parent authorization form is used for kids in 14-16 range. What else is needed for minors?
    - Rachel will look into other legal and insurance/liability management-related aspects of internships (ie Human Resources)
    - Sandie: Make sure the internship features meaningful work. Perhaps help instill the value of public service through internship opportunities with the police and fire departments, or the councilman's office.



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- Paul: Let's not risk productivity requirement be too big a barrier for entry. Simply being in an enriching setting can be of benefit to interns. It was agreed that a balance of more- and less-demanding associations between intern and host could be fine, as seen on a case-by-case basis (ie room for each, depending on intern and host).
  - The Rotary Club or Abbott Kinney Merchant's Association or Google could all be good places to start locating initial pilot program internship hosts.
  - FOC would act as an ombudsman or facilitator, once connections are made and the program is running; we/VNC should have no legal/fiduciary role in the internships.
  - SPY/Middle School/Venice High could all be good possible initial sources of input and interns for pilot program.
  - Jasmine, Mark, Gwendoline and Paul will convene as Internship Program subcommittee, and report back to the group.
2. As a means of informing our dialogue about possible future motions, a "Needs Assessment" survey ("Youth in Venice: Four Priorities/Needs Assessment") was distributed to the meeting attendees. Participants recorded ideas for programs that might be of most benefit to youth in the Venice community. A summary of the results follows as "Exhibit 1".

**7:30 Meeting Adjourned**



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## Exhibit 1: “Youth in Venice: Four Priorities/Needs Assessment” Survey Results Summary

Participants were asked to fill in a sheet with 4 blanks and the following question:

“Please list four fronts on which you believe community life in Venice for young people could be improved (or programs/initiatives that would offer important benefits)”. A summary of responses follows, grouped by general theme:

- 01 Blocked streets (car free) for community gatherings, free and accessible to all (block parties, live music, children’s parade, talent show, theater in the open air). Or neighborhood parties/gatherings in general - Let’s get to know our neighbors!
- 02 Free classes given outdoors for children and adults (yoga/tai chi/mindfulness on the beach).
- 03 An accessible local platform for being informed about youth-oriented community activities.
- 04 “Connection” – a day that shows the community cares for young people –youth showcase.
- 05 Youth art events – a place where young people can “leave their mark”.
- 06 A forum for young people to come forward and tell us what they need and want.
- 07 Activities specifically conceived to bring young and old people together; reading aloud?
- 08 “Green Focus” activities – beach cleaning, climate change education
- 09 STEM-oriented activities
- 10 Project management (introduction/training?)
- 11 Life skills workshops
- 12 Music + art – hang out in artist’s studios, photography internship?
- 13 Publicizing of local “20 under 20”
- 14 Connect businesses through Venice Living magazine
- 15 Could a youngster intern at a non-profit like Leaps n’ Bounds, help run classes for disabled kids?
- 16 Create a network of willing mentors where kids will be well-received.
- 17 Tutoring programs for youth at risk academically OR literacy programs where kids assist adult learners
- 18 College scholarships – how to navigate this area
- 19 Find teachers to refer specific students to create marketing campaign for their peers (social media). Learn how to write a press release or article.
20. Homelessness/housing/ghetto dynamic

END