



Venice Neighborhood Council

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



Minutes of the April 1, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

Voting Members (Present): Joe Murphy (VNC Discussion Forum Committee Chair), Paul Davis (parent and architect), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Joelle Dumas (Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church), Connie Clotworthy (Founder, Director of Worthy Beyond Purpose);

(Absent): Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Medina Goodman (parent and creative industries placement executive).

Community Members: Vanessa Rodriguez (Safe Place for Youth), Rachel Bindman (Los Angeles Public Library, Venice Branch Mgr), Sandy Bleifer (artist and artist housing advocate), Regan Kibbee (Co-Moderator of Venice Moms)

Note: the minutes below in small blue bold print 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.** Mar 4, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Minutes and Apr 1, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting Agenda adopted 6-0-0.
- 5:31** **Introduction of Guests, Announcements, and Public Comment on items not on the agenda**
- 5:31** **Introductions: Invited Guests & Attendees**
- **Sandy spoke of the Venice ArtWalk ~ the idea of SPY folks being docents for the art walk, and she is doing follow up for this process.**
 - **Regan brought up the homelessness encampment adjunct to the library and the farmer's market and how it impacts families' use of these wonderful resources. Rachel Bindman refuted the negative health rumors about this community, but people spoke to whether anything is accurate or not, people are deterred.**
- 5:40** **Announcements**
- **May 9 6-9pm Venice Chamber of Commerce Venice Wave Awards at The Coffee Connection 3838 S. Centinela Ave. (see vcceducationcommittee.org to donate/purchase tickets)**
Joelle spoke of their project as a source of creativity and renewal to honor the presence of children in Venice. They host 4-5 events annually. Have been at Venice H.S. for 34 years encouraging students to excel. They hold a luncheon for parents, community, school superintendent, etc. to publicly honor students. In December they do giveaway bags, in May they do a teacher gratitude/Oscar like event, honoring exemplary teachers, winners chosen by fellow staff members.
 - **SPY Venice Youth Network meetings on 4th Wednesdays from 9-11am**
- 5:45** **Public Comment on items not on the agenda**
- 5:45** **Consideration and possible adoption of the below motion(s): None**



Venice Neighborhood Council

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



5:45 Discussion:

- 5:45 ▪ **Admin Committee** (Joelle Dumas, Paul Davis, Jasmine Carey, Joe Murphy)
 - Paul: Meeting structure & length
 - Paul spoke to the duration of these meetings, to shorten them. Everyone agreed.
 - Paul: VNC Board's disposition of our **Youth Internship Program Motion** and an update on the work of his subcommittee
 - Paul gave an internship update: Gwendoline met with Dr. Renisha Scott at Venice H.S. An initial small pilot program will be launched, with the plan to overbook with 4 students in order to actually get 2 to commit. They will look into the work experience program which already exists.
 - Discussion about Jose Articles, leading admin for a citywide Work Experience program for teens. He and Paul have been communicating, and he is happy to meet Paul later in the week. Paul extended an open invitation for people to attend this meeting.
 - It was noted that it is highly recommended to have a contract of expectations and clearly defined tasks for the internship program. Paul passed around resources/info regarding work experience and internships.
 - Paul will continue future updates. Joe reported that the Board unanimously endorsed the internship initiative ~ it was noted that "ongoing ombudsmanship" with the Board is necessary and it is great that we are starting off with a positive unanimous front.
 - Regan - said that there is a similar program at Wildwood and the internships are highly coveted by students.
 - Sandy spoke of her Beverly Hills teacher contact and will give her information to Paul.
 - Joe: Summary of Admin members' organization and purpose
 - Joe gave the administrative meeting report. Everyone is welcome to offer items for the agenda. People were reminded that if they introduce new initiatives, it is also a part of that process to choose specific point people/facilitators to push each particular effort forward.

- 6:00 ▪ **Discussion**
 - The attached **Discussion Generator** lists the ideas which we have are discussed up to now. We (**Admin Committee**) recommend that we focus today exclusively on the following **Discussion Questions** in order to provide ourselves with some helpful guidance for channeling our energies:
 - Which ideas do you believe we should implement?
 - In what order?
 - Who will take responsibility to implement an idea (ie: prepare a motion for VNC review, pull together the equivalent of a subcommittee, etc.) The **Admin Committee** can and will help.
 - John: STEM focused initiative, particularly focused on women
 - Regan: Family focused events for 1st Fridays - a possible revival of it somewhere - on the early side of the event. These may be tied into existing events to create some family-friendly zone, activities, etc.
 - Joe: presented a visual overview of the VNC goals and the idea of Vision Goal Youth Auditors - to see if we are on task/in alignment with overarching youth-focused specific goals
 - Paul: Definitely looking for a role for youth in the VNC. Dr. Renisha Scott had suggested to him to have a student advisory committee. More to come on that...

7:00 **Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Venice Library**