



# Venice Neighborhood Council



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## Minutes of the July 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), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design); **(Absent):** Connie Clotworthy (Founder, Director of Worthy Beyond Purpose); Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area), Medina Goodman (parent and creative industries placement executive).

**Community Members:** David N. Silberman (Venice High School Work Experience Coordinator), Rachel Hemler, Kendra G. Beelen.

**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** – June 3, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children** Meeting Minutes and July 1, 2019 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children** Meeting Agenda

*Adopted unanimously.*

**5:31** **Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda**

*Paul introduced the two Community Member guests, who he had met in the course of a family beach outing. They were participating in a beach clean-up.*

**5:35** **Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s): None**

**5:35** Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion

**5:35** **Initiative Updates & Presentations**

o **Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program:**

*David Silberman, Work Experience Coordinator at Venice High School, attended the meeting and made a brief presentation about his program. He is pleased to coordinate with the DFC in an effort to place Venice High Students as interns with local businesses, non-profits, artists, etc. David requests that the Internship Subcommittee have a list of willing potential local intern hosts prepared as of early December, for processing and placement of students in 2020. In the meantime, the DFC will work in coordination with David and Jose Artiles (LAUSD's general coordinator of Work Experience programs) to develop a flyer/brochure that will enable possible sponsors to understand the program and their role/responsibility. This should be finished by summer's end. Paul Davis of the Internship Committee will also be prepared to make a presentation to the VNC Board summarizing the Committee's progress on this front.*

o **Joelle Dumas: Children's Parade**

o **Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Pedestrians**

*Mehrnoosh presented sketches of her ideas for providing walkable access to the Venice library from nearby Venice neighborhoods including use of the area east of the library, overall a proposal which reflected a sense of an amiable community enveloping the library as a future urban center which generated questions and a stimulating discussion.*

**6:00** **Discussion**

o **New Initiatives: None**

o **Possible Future Initiative Ideas & Discussion Topics building on [Needs Assessment Survey](#)**

**✚ Mark Washington/Rachel Bindman: Encourage reading relationships between high-school youth & very young children**

**✚ Joe Murphy: Housing Homeless Students, Possible **Focus on Children** involvement**

**✚ Joe Murphy: Possible political involvements relating to young people**

*Joe has assumed temporary responsibility for implementing this initiative, given his familiarity with VNC personnel and procedures. David Silberman and his fellow VHS faculty (particularly the ones who lead the Magnet and Academy programs) may be sources of referrals of students who might attend future DFC meetings and consider becoming active with the VNC. Journalism instructor Nancy Zubiri in particular could suggest students as writers for the VNC newsletter. Our contacts with the VHS faculty will likely start in September when the campus returns from Summer Break. Joe will report on progress at future meetings.*

**7:00** **Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, August 5, 2019 at the Venice Library**