



# 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

## Joint Board & Discussion Forum Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 9, 2019 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library (310-821-1769), 501 Venice Boulevard, Venice, California 90291

### Focus on Children

- 5:30 **Call to Order - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda**
- 5:31 **Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda**
- 5:35 **Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s):**

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, VNC Vision Goals such as "Participation" and "Walkability" remain of keen interest to the DFC, particularly as they relate to children's issues, and

Whereas, public libraries are vital assets in a neighborhood, for the promotion of learning, reading, and for general community-building, particularly among children and families, and

Whereas, Venice is favored with a splendid public library, the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, but it is undisputed that its location on - in effect - a "traffic island" between North and South Venice Boulevard may serve automobiles well but creates great barriers to pedestrians desiring to find and visit the library on foot, and

Whereas, increased pedestrian access to this Library would be of great benefit to local children, their parents and the community at large, then

Be it therefore resolved (Motion) that:

The VNC Board is supportive of the DFC's efforts to work towards proposals for the permitting, funding, and construction of enhanced pedestrian access features for the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library. Such measures might include crosswalks, stop signs, signals, or pedestrian overpasses.

The DFC's efforts on this front are being led by Mehrnoosh Mojallali, licensed architect, urban designer, and former member of the Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee.

Quorum Procedure: Please inform Joe (310-305-1444 or [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com)) when you know you will be unable to attend a meeting so he can do what is necessary to assure a quorum at meetings where motions will be considered.

- 5:40 **Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion**
- 5:40
  - **Initiative Updates & Presentations**
    - Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program
    - Joelle Dumas: Children's Parade
    - Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Pedestrians
- 6:00
  - **Discussion**
    - New Initiatives: None

Initiative Procedure: if you are willing to implement an initiative, please notify Paul or Joelle or Joe of your decision to do so (form subcommittee, draft motion, follow-through with VNC process, etc.)

- 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 involvement of young people in local government

Discussion Topic Procedure: Submit an idea or topic to Paul or Joelle or Joe 2 weeks before a meeting to have it listed for discussion

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

#### DFC Voting Members

Connie Clotworthy [ceejay5214@gmail.com](mailto:ceejay5214@gmail.com)  
Joe Murphy [joemur@gmail.com](mailto:joemur@gmail.com)  
John Palka [palka.john@gmail.com](mailto:palka.john@gmail.com)

Jasmine Carey [modernshero@gmail.com](mailto:modernshero@gmail.com)  
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Future Joint Board & DFC Meetings:

191104 – 191202



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## **Discussion Forum Committee Mission Statement**

**Provide a monthly forum for discussion of long-term matters affecting the Venice Community within the context of the VNC Vision Goals\***

\*The VNC Vision Goals were adopted unanimously by the Board on April 21, 2009 as Standing Rule 20 and amended unanimously by the Board on May 20, 2014 to insert the **Focus on Children Vision Goal**. For further information about the DFC, contact its chair Joe Murphy at 310-305-1444 or at [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com).

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:

### **Focus on Children**

**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. Include this **Focus on Children** as an integral part of the **consideration** of **strategies** in all of the below **Vision Goals**.

### **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.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS:** The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Discussion Forum Committee on any agenda item before the Discussion Forum Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Discussion Forum Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Discussion Forum Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Discussion Forum Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

**POSTING:** 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 Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: [www.venicenc.org](http://www.venicenc.org), or at the scheduled meeting. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/your-government/government-information/subscribe-meetings-agendas-and-documents/neighborhood>. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact [joedmur@gmail.com](mailto:joedmur@gmail.com).

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS:** For information on the VNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website [www.venicenc.org](http://www.venicenc.org).

**DISABILITY POLICY:** The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request by contacting Melissa Diner, Secretary at [secretary@venicenc.org](mailto:secretary@venicenc.org).