



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 January 6, 2020 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children** Meeting

Voting Members (Present): Joe Murphy (VNC DFC CoChair), Joelle Dumas (VNC DFC CoChair, Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), Paul Davis (VNC DFC CoChair, parent and architect), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church); **(Absent):** Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area).

Community Members: Zoila Darton and 2-yr-old son

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 - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda

Adopted unanimously.

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

Zoila Darton introduced herself . The FOC group was pleased to have her with us at the meeting and welcomes her involvement in our future activities. Zoila seems to have a great range of local contacts and a deep interest in community-building. Welcome, Zoila!

5:35 Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion(s):

5:35 **▪ Revised version of motion seeking support for Venice Moms:**

Whereas, the DFC's **Focus on Children** Committee supports the efforts of Regan Kibbee, moderator of the Venice Moms email group (at Groups.io) and creator of the www.VeniceMoms.com website, to provide parents a forum to connect with one another in parenting children:
It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

The VNC Board is supportive of Venice Moms - a not-for-profit online community for local families to share information, resources, parenting support, and opportunities to connect, since 2002 - and thereby authorizes it to use the VNC Logo in its online and offline publications and to distribute said publications at VNC events and meetings.

▪ Support for Connections for Children:

Whereas, the DFC's **Focus on Children** Committee supports the efforts of the non-profit organization, Connections for Children, to provide the Venice community with quality child care resources:
It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

The VNC board is supportive of Connections for Children - a non-profit child care resource and referral agency working to build a stronger future for children, families, and communities through quality child care resources, education and guidance - and thereby authorizes it to use the VNC Logo in its online and offline publications and to distribute said publications at VNC events and meetings.

▪ Presentation to Board of progress of Youth Internship Program:

Whereas, the work of the DFC's Youth Internship Program has progressed to the point where it is appropriate to update the Board of its progress:

The VNC board provides 5 minutes to hear the progress of the Youth Internship Program.

All of the above motions were adopted unanimously.

5:50 Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion

5:50 **▪ Initiative Updates & Presentations**

○ **Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program**

Paul reported that he and John Palka were actively contacting potential intern hosts, and were having success with a range of local entities, including SPARC, the Pacific Resident Theater, "Venice Living" magazine, and others. Prospective host names will be passed to VHS Work Experience coordinator David Silberman prior to 01/12/20. VHS will determine whether interns will first serve this semester or later this year, depending on staffing at the high school and the demand among students for the existing work experience classes. We will share news of these developments to the VNC Board at a general meeting in the near future.

○ **Joelle Dumas: Valentine's Day Children's Parade – to inundate our streets with love**

Joelle indicated that this years' Valentine's Day Children's Parade will be held on Friday, February 14th, at the Ecole Claire Fontaine front gate; 1047-1051 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice 90291. The parade will start promptly at 11:00am and proceed south down Abbot Kinney Blvd's east side of the street. Please bring children dressed in red & white clothing and bring any other supplies for a "heart-ily" good time. Tell your friends! For further information, contact Ecole Claire Fontaine at 310 314-9976.



Venice Neighborhood Council



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

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

Mehrnoosh reported that she had met with LA City Traffic Planner (name). He had been willing to support a repainting of existing crossing markings, but felt that a bridge would be too costly. Ensuing discussion at the meeting focused on the need to generate a political process that would encourage and support the city's receptivity to more significant measures. Flashing lights and signs were mentioned as a compromise measure that could increase safety for pedestrians. Joining forces with carousel designer Robin Murez was discussed, as a means of helping develop momentum for measures that would benefit the library, the carousel, and the public. The FOC will continue to discuss this matter and plan next steps.

6:50

▪ **Discussion Topics/Questions** – building on **Needs Assessment Survey**

The remainder of the agenda was postponed until the February 3, 2020 meeting.

- ✦ What do you think should be the priorities of this committee?
- ✦ Homelessness is a major and central issue in our community. Is there something constructive that this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?
- ✦ The Venice Neighborhood Council Bylaws enable young adults to become elected members of its Board of Officers and voting members/chairs of its various committees – and to create new committees – and to be otherwise involved in its various functions and government-related activities. To date, very little has been done to encourage such involvement. Is this something this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?
- ✦ **Worthy Beyond Purpose** is dedicated to providing children with mindfulness experiences. Should we take time to explore in greater depth what this entails and whether this committee is uniquely-positioned to, in a constructive manner, enable broader community use of this model?

6:55

▪ **Contribution of Topics/Questions &/or Motions for next meeting agenda**

7:00

Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Venice Library
