



Venice Neighborhood Council



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Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Joint VNC Board & DFC **Focus on Children Meeting**

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

Community Members: Ira Koslow (VNC Board President), Sahar Khundmiri (Volunteer & Advocacy Manager of Safe Place for Youth), Alek Bartrosouf (Councilperson Mike Bonin's DOT representative), Sandy Bleifer (Artist).

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*

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

5:40 *Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion*

5:40 **▪ Initiative Updates & Presentations & Discussions**

⚡ Joe Murphy & Alek Bartrosouf: Family Friendly Streets Initiative (Slow Streets Program)

Alek Bartrosouf provided helpful information about the Family Friendly Streets Initiative (Slow Streets Program) which enabled the committee to consider whether it could achieve the below referenced twin objectives via an emulatable model as suggested by Joe Murphy.

5:45 **▪ Discussion Topics/Questions—building on Needs Assessment Survey**

⚡ In the context of the pandemic, what do you think should be the priorities of this committee?

The discussion raised a variety of topics related to the impact of the pandemic on the education of children – including the need for teacher-student bonding and peer-to-peer socialization – and how to achieve these twin objectives in the context of the Family Friendly Streets Initiative, particularly for K-5 children, in a way that could be a model for use effectively in all residential neighborhoods.

Among the ideas discussed was the possibility of using designated Family Friendly Streets for education pods (teacher-student bonding) and play/artwork areas (peer-to-peer socialization).

There was considerable skepticism about whether the Family Friendly Streets Initiative could be used to achieve this twin objective.

Other ideas were aired. One was to use parking lots or walk streets for these purposes. Another was the problems involved with reliance on webinars instead of in-school classes – issues then under discussion between school administrators, unions, and teachers and parents – and various hybrid options also came up.

There was no clear resolution of the matters raised except a clear interest in doing things which could help achieve the twin objectives via a model that could be emulated in all residential neighborhoods.

7:00 *Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, September 7, 2020*