

# Venice Neighborhood Council

Post Office Box 550

Venice, CALIFORNIA 90294



## Land Use and Planning Committee MINUTES November 19, 2008



1 **1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

2

3 LUPC members present: Challis Macpherson, John Reed, Jim Murez, Jed

4 Pauker, Ruthie Seroussi and Arnold Springer. Kelly Reese and Matthew

5 Geller, new LUPC members, were also present.

6 **2. APPROVAL OF THIS AGENDA AS PRESENTED OR AMENDED**

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8 **3. APPROVAL OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES**

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10 **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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12 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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14 **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1 305 Ocean Front Walk. John Reed reported that this property is now listed by the  
2 bank as going into foreclosure. The developer is in plan check on a smaller property;  
3 Mr. Reed suggested that spending LUPC time on a project that may be a challenge  
4 to get approvals from the City for the various discretionary actions that will be  
5 required. Mr. Reed stated his intent to discuss the project further with the  
6 prospective developer.

7 Arnold Springer suggested that Laura Silagi be asked to investigate the two  
8 illuminated wall signs on CVS Pharmacy.

9 **7. ADMINISTRATIVE**

10 **A. LUPC Chair report on VNC Board of Officers actions relative to LUPC**  
11 **recommendations.**

12 There was considerable cross-talk discussion about how to garner support  
13 from the VNC Board on policies and precedents that LUPC sets. There  
14 was cross-talk about publishing a list of items and documents approved by  
15 the Board.

16 **B. LUPC Task Force reports**

17 Challis Macpherson reported that Arnold Springer is working on a report  
18 on 709. Jed Pauker agreed to summarize the Fences and Hedges Task  
19 Force efforts. Mr. Springer referred to survey questions circulated that  
20 alluded to revision of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Mr. Springer  
21 stated that the Task Force should have a mechanism to make revisions to  
22 the Specific Plan on discrete issues. John Reed stated his preference that  
23 Public Works reclassify Venice streets, to eliminate the imposition of  
24 mindless street dedications. Mr. Reed also stated that the fact that RAS

1 zoning is not addressed in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan has  
2 allowed an opportunity to impose RAS zoning on a C4 zoned location.  
3 There was discussion about how this revision can be effected. It was  
4 decided that a list of VNC Board-approved proposed revisions to the  
5 Specific Plan will be published on the VNC website; Jim Murez suggested  
6 how the material can be presented. Ruthie Seroussi suggested that  
7 letters of support from large developers should be solicited, for example,  
8 for rooftop structures.

9 **C. Staff Reports on Current Projects**

10 **D. Agenda Building**

11 Arnold Springer suggested that Phil Raider be invited to a LUPC meeting  
12 to discuss parking. Jim Murez complained about LUPC taking on a case  
13 that was solely about parking without input from Mr. Raider; Challis  
14 Macpherson reported that Mr. Raider had not responded. Mr. Raider will  
15 be asked to attend the December 10, 2008 LUPC meeting.

16 At John Reed's request regarding a case, Jed Pauker stated that the  
17 applicant strongly rejected the notion that there is a standard set of ABC  
18 conditions, on the premise that each project has a unique set of  
19 conditions. Mr. Pauker suggested that a comprehensive list of CUP  
20 conditions be compiled to be provided to any CUB request. There was  
21 further discussion about the list. The discussion moved on to a case

1 recently heard by LUPC that hinges on parking, and how the usage of a  
2 property in 1972 affects the calculation of parking now.

3 Robert Aronson arrived.

4 There was further discussion of “grandfathering” with regard to parking.

5 Robert Aronson suggested that LUPC consider commissioning a parking  
6 study. John Reed volunteered to participate in the Task Force that will  
7 focus on revisions to the Specific Plan, as did Matthew Geller.

8 Jed Pauker suggested that an administrative meeting similar to this  
9 evening’s should take place every other month.

10 John Reed suggested that boilerplate conditions be formed sorted by type,  
11 by application, by building type, etc.

12 Ruthie Seroussi suggested that 1020 Venice be reviewed. Challis

13 Macpherson suggested that Susan Papadakis and John Reed partner on  
14 a review.

15 Challis Macpherson reported that a request has been made to have a

16 LUPC meeting do review projects only in Marina del Rey. Jim Murez

17 suggested a Town Hall; Arnold Springer noted the disadvantages to a

18 Town Hall forum. Ms. Macpherson stated that she would further research

19 Parcel OT and request a presentation. Ms. Macpherson will request a

20 précis from Nancy Marino and from the Coalition that summarizes what is

21 going on in the Marina area; the précis and other information can be

22 posted on the website.

1       **E. Project tracking system**

2           Challis Macpherson asked Jim Murez about the project tracking system.

3           Mr. Murez stated that he had stopped work on the tracking system but will  
4           resume and put a version of the tracking system on the website as soon  
5           as he has something to show. Responding to Ruthie Seroussi's question,  
6           Mr. Murez stated that the system is designed to take the CNC Report  
7           information to create a discrete webpage for item listed on the CNC report.

8           The system allows information about the project that may impact the  
9           community to be accumulated; the system can then be used to facilitate  
10          LUPC's function. Ruthie Seroussi and Arnold Springer commented about  
11          possible redundancies. Robert Aronson stated that a change to the  
12          Specific Plan that eliminates grandfathering of parking spaces was called  
13          for; Mr. Murez argued against "taking away somebody's rights." Ms.  
14          Macpherson suggested that the revision to the Specific Plan provide for  
15          phasing out the granting of grandfathered parking spaces. There was  
16          discussion of several recent LUPC cases where the provision of parking is  
17          at issue and various solutions were presented. A suggestion was made to  
18          have the community present the idea that parking could be provided to the  
19          community to a local business that has ample parking; the intent is to  
20          foster improvement to a section of Lincoln Boulevard that faces several  
21          development projects in various stages.

22       **8. ADJOURN**

- 1 **The meeting adjourned by common consent at 9pm.**