

**Venice Neighborhood Council
Board of Officers Meeting
Westminster Elementary School
March 20, 2007**

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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3 DeDe Audet called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. Phil Raider called the roll. Board
4 members present: DeDe Audet, Sylviane Dungan, Eileen Pollak-Erickson, Yolanda
5 Gonzales, Michael King, Ira Koslow, Challis Macpherson, Joe Murphy, Richard Myers,
6 Mike Newhouse, Stuart Oscars, Nadine Parkos, Phil Raider and Ivan Spiegel.
7 Late arrivals: Diana Pollard, Colette Bailey, Ed Ferrer
8 Absent: Stan Muhammad, Linda Lucks, Kelly S Willis
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10 **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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12 Yolanda Gonzalez asked that item 8.C be taken out of order. There being no
13 objection, DeDe Audet ordered the item so moved.
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15 **The Agenda was amended by a vote of 13 in favor; 0 against; 1 abstention.**

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17 **3. APPROVAL OF ANY OUTSTANDING MINUTES SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY**

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19 **Phil Raider moved to approve the 12-19-06 and 1-16-07 Minutes, as amended;
20 seconded by Ira Koslow.**

21 **VOTE: 13 in favor; 0 against; 1 abstention.**
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23 **4. TREASURERS REPORT**

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25 Richard Myers reported that committee budgets must be submitted to the Treasurer for
26 inclusion in the next fiscal year budget.
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28 **5. SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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30 I. Shana Bonstin, Community Planning Bureau, City of Los Angeles, referred to a
31 public workshop to be held on Thursday, March 22, 2007 from 6-8 pm to discuss
32 the proposed Community Design Overlay District intended to improve the aesthetics
33 of Lincoln Boulevard.
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35 II. Presentation of Certificate of appreciation to C.J. Cole
36 Tabled.
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38 **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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40 **DeDe Audet** announced an invitation to the Board from the California Dance Institute
41 at Westminster Elementary School to attend a performance by dance students and
42 Joffrey Ballet members on March 24, 2007 at the Colburn School.

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DeDe Audet reported periodic closures of the Marina Freeway.

DeDe Audet announced a meeting that took place on March 20th between the Large Waves and High Water Task Force, City and County representatives, and that a special meeting in Venice will take place in May 2007 that will include tsunami and earthquake experts.

Challis Macpherson reported that she and DeDe Audet attended an opening ceremony for several yacht clubs in Marina del Rey where inappropriate development and encouragement of recreational boating were discussed. Ms. Audet thanked Yolanda Gonzalez for the invitation to attend.

Stephanie Mullin, representing Assembly Ted Lieu, announced that his office has moved, invited stakeholders to attend an open house on Thursday, March 24, 2007, referred to events planned for the district including recycling, safety, and environmental topics. Ms. Mullin reported activities planned by the League of Conservation Voters and invited stakeholders to attend an upcoming May 6, 2007 event.

Jesse Switzer, field representative for Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, introduced himself.

Break in recording

Mike Newhouse made a public comment

Jacomo Maltsby made a public comment

Recording resumed.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. From Rules & Elections

- I. Bylaws amendment establishing a standing Ocean Front Walk Committee.

Joe Murphy read the Rules & Election recommendation passed unanimously: that the Board amend the Bylaws to add the Ocean Front Walk Committee as a Standing Committee of the VNC. The By-law language shall read as follows:

Ocean Front Walk Committee: Chaired by Community Officer nominated by the Administrative Committee, subject to approval of the Board. The Committee has the general responsibility for addressing the issues, concerns, programs and services that affect the various stakeholders and interests on the Venice Boardwalk and Venice Beach. These include, but are not limited to: free speech, performance, merchants, tourism,

88 *sanitation and recycling, public nuisance, public safety, and interaction with law*
89 *enforcement and other officials of the City and County of Los Angeles.*

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91 **Joe Murphy moved to accept the Rules & Elections Committee recommendation;**
92 **seconded by Ira Koslow.**

93 **VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

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95 II. Bylaws amendment establishing a standing Arts, Beautification and Culture
96 committee

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98 Joe Murphy read the Rules & Elections Committee recommendation that the
99 Board amend the Bylaws to add the Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee
100 as a Standing Committee of the VNC and suggested an amendment to the
101 Bylaw language:

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103 **Arts Committee:** *Chaired by Community Officer, nominated by the Administrative*
104 *Committee, subject to approval by the Board. The Committee has the general*
105 *responsibility to support and encourage the arts in Venice.*

106

107 **Joe Murphy moved to accept his amendment to the Rules & Elections Committee**
108 **recommendation; seconded by Phil Raider.**

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110 **Ivan Spiegel moved that the words “non-judgmental” be added to the By-Laws**
111 **amendment; seconded by Challis Macpherson:**

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113 Ivan Spiegel withdrew his motion; Challis Macpherson withdrew her second.

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115 **VOTE: 13 in favor; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions.**

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117 Joe Murphy stated that a two-thirds majority of the Board is needed to approve By-Laws
118 amendments. Stuart Oscars changed his abstention.

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120 **AMENDED VOTE: 14 in favor; 1 opposed; 2 abstentions**

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122 III. Bylaws amendment re; VNC Board Resignations, Removals and Vacancies

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124 **Joe Murphy moved to accept the amendment as read; seconded by Nadine Parkos.**

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126 **G. Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies:**

127 *4. Vacant Board seats shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining elected Officers.*
128 *Officers selected in this manner shall serve as **ex officio** Board Officers until confirmed or*
129 *replaced by election by a majority vote of the Voting Members present and voting at a*
130 *subsequent Election Meeting **to be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than***
131 ***ninety (90) days following the selection of said Officers.***

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133 **VOTE: 15 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions.**

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135 IV. Establishment of a standing rule re; Appointment of Fiscal Agent

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137 **Joe Murphy moved to approve the Rules and Elections Committee's**
138 **recommendation; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez. The recommendation reads as**
139 **follows:**

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141 *The President, in the event of a vacancy in the Treasurer position, may appoint a*
142 *stakeholder (including VNC Officers, with the exception of the President) as a "Fiscal*
143 *Agent" pro-tempore. The Fiscal Agent will perform the duties of the Treasurer until a*
144 *Treasurer is duly elected.*

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146 **VOTE: 15 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention.**

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148 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

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150 A. From the office of the President

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152 I. Affirmation of the appointment of Michael King as chair of the Ad Hoc Arts
153 Committee of Venice

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155 **Ivan Spiegel moved to approve the appointment of Michael King as Chair of the Ad-**
156 **hoc Arts Committee; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez.**

157 **VOTE: 12 in favor; 1 opposed; 4 abstentions.**

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159 Phil Raider stated, for the record that Board approval of appointments is not
160 mandated by the VNC By-Laws.

161

162 **Richard Myers moved that a vote for items 8.A.II and 8.A.III be combined; seconded**
163 **by Phil Raider**

164 **VOTE: 16 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention. The motion passed.**

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166 II. Affirmation of the appointment of Sara Cozolino as chair of the Ad Hoc Animal
167 Welfare Committee

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169 III. Ratification of a 5 year extension of the DWP/NC Memorandum of
170 Understanding

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172 **Phil Raider moved to affirm and ratify items 8.A.II and 8.A.III; seconded by Nadine**
173 **Parkos.**

174 **VOTE: 15 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.**

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176 B. From the LUPC

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178 I. Ratification of the LUPC decision regarding Proposal to develop 5 surplus
179 Venice properties into Parks

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181 Challis Macpherson introduced Mark Winter, who explained why the city-owned
182 Venice properties are ideal for the purpose of conversion to public space. Mr.
183 Winter suggested that the Board approve a request to transfer the subject
184 parcels to the Los Angeles Department Recreation and Parks department, to
185 initiate communication between VNC and the Los Angeles Department of
186 Recreation and Parks regarding the transfer, to request a formal, definitive
187 statement from Council District 11 regarding a moratorium on all Venice lot sales
188 of public land until a full accounting has been provided, and that the Board fully
189 affirm and support an audit of property sales, the income and the expenses of
190 the Venice Surplus Property fund.

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192 **Phil Raider moved to support all recommendations made by Mark Winters;**
193 **seconded by Nadine Parkos.**

194 **VOTE: 16 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.**

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196 II. Approval of the use of Community Impact Statements by the LUPC

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198 **Joe Murphy moved to approve item 8.B.II; seconded by Richard Myers.**

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200 **Joe Murphy amended his motion to Approval of the use of the Community Impact**
201 **Statement, with the following five (5) positions being able to initiate that process:**
202 **The LUPC Chair, a stakeholder on the LUPC, the VNC President, Secretary and**
203 **Communications Officer, so long as these impact statements have been approved**
204 **by the Board; seconded by ...**

205

206 Ms. Audet asked Joe Murphy if he could accept amendment to his motion as
207 discussed; Mr. Murphy concurred.

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209 **DeDe Audet re-stated the motion by Joe Murphy: Community Impact Statements be**
210 **submitted to the Administrative Committee, in 100 words or less, for approval by the**
211 **Board and subsequent submission by any one of five (5) people to the appropriate**
212 **Clerk of the City that can handle it. The five (5) people are the LUPC Chair, a**
213 **stakeholder on the LUPC, the VNC President, Secretary and Communications**
214 **Officer; seconded by ...**

215

216 **Ivan Spiegel moved to postpone discussion; Phil Raider seconded.**

217

218 Phil Raider noted, for the record, that Yolanda Gonzalez left the meeting.

219

220 **VOTE: 11 in favor; 3 opposed; 2 abstentions. The motion passed.**

221

222 **Phil Raider moved to adjourn, noting that the posted adjournment time had passed;**
223 **seconded by Collette Bailey.**

224 **VOTE: 3 in favor; 12 opposed; no abstentions. The motion failed.**

225

226 Richard Myers asked for a list of items that could be postponed.

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228 III. Ratification of the LUPC decision re; 245 Market St., Affordable income unit
229 approval

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231 This item was withdrawn by Challis Macpherson.

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233 C. From the Office of the Vice President

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235 (Taken out of order) Election of Jeffrey Fritz, Sandie West and Mark Winter as
236 members of the Neighborhood Committee

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238 **Yolanda Gonzalez moved to appoint Jeffrey Fritz, Sandie West and Mark Winter as**
239 **members of the Neighborhood Committee; seconded by Nadine Parkos.**

240 **VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

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242 D. From the Rules & Elections committee

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244 I. Ratification of the findings of the committee re; 5 grievances filed by Rick Selan

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246 DeDe Audet asked if there was any objection to this item being taken out of
247 order; there was none.

248

249 **Joe Murphy moved to ratify the findings of the Rules & Elections Committee**
250 **regarding the grievances filed by Rick Selan, that they be dismissed with prejudice,**
251 **because each grievance failed to include a decision by the Board of Governors;**
252 **seconded by Diana Pollard.**

253

254 Joe Murphy asked that Rick Selan be informed by the Secretary of the decision
255 by the board, if the motion passes.

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257 **VOTE: 13 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions. The motion passed.**

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259 II. Approval of the election procedures for 2007 election

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261 **Joe Murphy moved to approve the Election Procedures for 2007 as submitted by the**
262 **Rules & Elections Committee and submit the procedures to DONE; seconded by**
263 **Richard Myers.**

264 **VOTE: Unanimous in favor.**

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266 E. From the Outreach & Events Committee

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271 **Ivan Spiegel moved to approve the expenditure of not more than \$9,000 for an NC**
272 **Video-On-Demand pilot proposal; seconded by Challis Macpherson.**

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I. Approval of an expenditure of not more than \$9,000 for an NC video on demand pilot project

Ivan Spiegel moved to approve the expenditure of not more than \$9,000 for an NC Video-On-Demand pilot proposal; seconded by Challis Macpherson.
VOTE: 0 in favor, 14 opposed, 1abstention. The motion failed.

II. Report to the Board of recommended changes to the Board Meeting Agenda

Postponed.

III. Report to the Board on the proposed May & July Town Hall meetings
Ivan Spiegel reported on the proposed May 2007 Town Hall meeting and July Town Hall Meetings.

IV. Request to LA City/DONE/BONC to begin a regular program of NC Public Service Announcements

Ivan Spiegel moved to approve the letter written by Kelly Willis, regarding a request to the LA City/DONE/BONC to begin a regular program of NC Public Service Announcements; seconded by Joe Murphy.

VOTE: 14 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention.

F. Report from the Gail Goldberg Taskforce

Ms. Taylor-Ross provided a copy of the book presented to Gail Goldberg to the Board. Ms. Taylor-Ross expressed hope for continued cooperation from Ms. Goldberg.

G. Administrative Committee

I. Presentation of the 2-20-07 Board minutes for approval

Withdrawn by Phil Raider.

II. Removal of Spike Marlin from VNC Board for non attendance

Phil Raider moved that, in keeping with the VNC By-Laws, that the removal of Spike Marlin from the VNC Board for non-attendance be officially recognized; seconded by Eileen Pollak-Erickson.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

H. From the Communications Officer

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Approval of an expenditure of \$1,500 for transcription of election registration forms

Mike Newhouse moved that the Board approve the expenditure of \$1500 for the transcription of election registration forms; seconded by Phil Raider.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Diana Pollard asked which Board members volunteered for Big

Jacomo Maltsby suggested that comfortable seats should be provided to stakeholders and asked if Yolanda Gonzalez had been authorized by the VNC to appear at the January 17, 2007 Board of Public Works Commission Hearing.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Collette Bailey moved to adjourn at 10:20 pm; seconded by ...