

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

Board of Officers Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2006

1. Meeting was called to order by DeDe Audet at 7:10pm
2. **Roll Call** by Phil Raider, 18 present at roll call including DeDe Audet, Colette Bailey, LJ Carusone, CJ Cole, Sylviane Dungan, Peter Force, Yolanda Gonzalez (7:30), Michael King, Linda Lucks, Challis Macpherson, , Ingrid Mueller, Stan Muhammad, Richard Myers, Naomi Nightingale, Susan Papadakis, Dianna Pollard, Phil Raider, Mindy Taylor-Ross, Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian

Absent: Brett Miller, Rebecca Tafoya, Kelly S. Willis

3. **Approval of Agenda**

DP wants to add item 10f, Arts Committee

CJC corrects the amount in Item 9,A,i to \$667.00

LJC wants to add Item 6,d. approval of voting day bylaws change by DONE.

Approved as amended by show of hands.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Move approval of the Minutes from Feb 28, 2006 & Mar 28,2006, Board of Officers Meetings

Move by PR, 2nd by RM

Approved by show of hands.

5. **Treasurers report**

The petty cash fund balance is \$132.69, prepaid cash card \$6,250.00, the City checking account \$86,451.14. The total available funds are \$\$92,833.83. We have accounts payable of \$2,341.23. Expenditures to date by transaction and by category reports were distributed to the Board. The treasurer received the final audit by DONE of GRVNC financial from inception. The audit reviews from the 4th quarter of 2004 and 1st quarter 2005 require affidavits to be signed for missing receipts and other issues that The Treasurer feels she cannot sign as she was not the treasure for those periods.

DA will secure signatures for the affidavits.

CJC the report also has the reconciliation and audit from 2nd quarter of fiscal 2005 and 3rd quarter has been submitted to DONE.

6. **Announcements & Public Comments on Agenda**

MTR announces her appointment of Dante Cacacae to the LUPC

- a. LJC: Election for GRVNC bylaws revision ratification will be May 1, 2006 at 7PM at Westminster School. Done has approved the voting day bylaws change as well
- b. LL: Mayors Day of Service is May 7, 2006 Venice Bl. clean-up and health fair
- c. NN: Education Committee will meet on April 20; Marlene Canter will not attend.
- d. DP: SD will take over the chair of the Arts Committee.

7. **Announcements & Public Comments on Agenda**

DeDe McCrary; march on Saturday, 4/22/06 to rally against racial profiling
Michael Hunt; arrested 24 times for selling on OFW, protests against the current laws and regulations.

Mathew Dowd; permit holder doesn't want to turn Venice into Manhattan Beach, protests against the current laws and regulations.

Zuma Dog; his constitutional rights are being abused on OFW by the current laws
Phil Raider; read sections of Brown Act which define an emergency and asks that the Board follows the definitions in the future.

Collette Bailey; Disaster preparedness Expo on 4/29/06 at Oakwood Rec.

Stepanie Molen; April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, urges support of Denim

Day

8. **Old Business**

- a. Prop O Funds; SD will meet and collaborate with Council office to determine why Venice is split into two sections and work to promote future involvement.
- b. Streets Repairs; YG met with M-A Grant re street repairs will work with Engineering to solve drainage and pothole problems.

9. **New Business:**

a. Budget & Finance Committee:

- i. Request from Lincoln Place task for \$667.00 for Lincoln Place mediation.

CJC explained that the request didn't pass in Budget committee and is on agenda at the request of the Excom.

LL is the lead delegate to the mediation feels the sessions are grueling but going well. All final solutions will be returned to the Board for review. Urges the board to support the request.

Move that we accept the proposal to pay up to \$667.00 as our fair share.

Moved by LL, 2nd by MTR

CJC we need to determine where in the budget the monies will be drawn from. NN confirms that a meeting would be held about 4/28/06 to review the findings and wants adequate notice for board.

LL the mediation will end on 4/28/06. Dealing with traffic, growth tenets height etc.

Jim Smith can't understand why affordable housing is being torn down in Venice. Urges support of the mediation.

Suzanne Thompson explained she abstained at the committee because she was not fully informed of the issues, urges all who have requests to the Budget Committee to attend the committee meetings.

CJ Cole as early as 3/1/06 there was talk of mediation. questions why the request for funding was brought up as an emergency measure on 3/29/06 when plenty of time was available to bring this through channels and not an emergency measure.

Amanda Seward part of mediation, preservationist urges support of the expenditure.

Laura Silagi part of mediation, Venice CC urges support of the expenditure.

Move that The GRVNC support the mediators fee to the maximum amount of \$667.00 for a negotiation to be concluded not later that April 28, 2006 and when and if, I hope, a settlement agreement is reached I will tell the Chair who will call a special meeting of the Board so that we can consider what the proposal, and we will take it to the other stakeholders as well so this should be sent all over the community to have a community wide buy in and I just hope it works.

Moved by LL, 2nd by MTR

IM recuses herself from voting all Lincoln Place mediation matters as she is a Lincoln Place leaseholder.

SM wants to give the mediation all the support needed to defeat big developers.

SP supports this expenditure and more if needed.

MTR is involved in the Lincoln Place survival and urge full support.

SD supports spending the money and more if needed.

CM concurs with the motion as stated.

PR supports the expenditure and has confidence in the GRVNC team. Question to CJC; Acknowledging the questionable nature of the budget request if the GRVNC goes ahead and budgets the money and says were going to pay for it, and later on DONE comes back and says I'm sorry you didn't properly do this and we're not to pay for it. Where does the money come from? Is there any indication of how DONE has done this in the past?

CJC; the biggest concern I have is, that it went through correct procedure but that it was never agended correctly on the Budget Committee because the budget allocation request was not correct. It does not have a category to go into, and if it doesn't fit into one of our categories we can't spend it because that's how our budget is set up.

PR; I'm just trying to understand that DONE may come back, because this was not 100% procedurally correct and refuse to pay for it. I'm wondering what happens in that case. Is this board all personally liable for money? How does that work?

NN; I support the funds, concerned that I constantly hear from some people in the audience about what this Board doesn't do, every issue that has been brought to this Board regarding Lincoln PI has been supported by this Board. Nothing has ever been turned away. The Board members and individual representatives have participated and supported it and would like some support for the board for doing that. Logistically how do we get to come back together for this meeting? Notes that the schedule is very full. Wants to continue to fight for and support the issue.

YG; I think we have all been in support of Lincoln PI from the beginning. Doesn't want to risk GRVNC funds because of the procedural question.

CJC; tired of hearing about Lincoln PI. Doesn't believe that the mediation will be the end of it, really concerned procedurally due to the category question.

RM; believes that we can overcome the procedural problem. We can amend this motion to appoint LL as representative now. Is this something we're committing to do for every project? We need to be very clear about the category. Can Deanna Stevenson clarify?

LJ supports our efforts and the tenants. Sounds like a LUPC issue.
DP also supports. Suggests that the category "Stakeholder Meetings & Events be used by the treasurer for the expenditure. Suggest we amend the amendment to include that category.

Deanna Stevenson; Budget is not my area of expertise. It seems like you're going in the direction where it's possible. I think the Board is the determining body. If the Board wishes to allocate funding. The 1st thing you have to know is you have to allocate the funding after the process, the person would have to present you with a statement after the service is performed. If that is the case it seems like there is a rational given, that this would fall under the category you have mentioned. If the Board decides that that's the way it wants to go, I don't, myself believe, that DONE would find something amiss with that category.

DP; would you accept the amendment that it is allocated to Stakeholder Meetings & Events, and recognizing that we are setting a precedent.

LL; I will accept that amendment.

MK; I'd be willing to accept that amendment, that's all I need to support.

LL; I appreciate all the words of support and will do my best effort to reach a resolution that satisfies all the parties.

CB; supports and thanks to LL

PF strongly supports the request.

DA; All in support of the amendment please raise you hand. I see all but one hand raised.

Amendment carries by a show of hands.

DA; All in favor of the motion as amended

Amended motion carries 15-1-1

ii. Request for \$1000, for refreshments, to support Mayors Day of Service

CJC feels we could do a better more cost effective job if we do it ourselves. 2 refreshment trucks with donated goods to make the rounds on Venice Bl and the Oakwood Rec Center. The \$1000.00 could go to the City or we could do it .

John Brady of the Mayors office wants GRVNC to support the Mayors Day of Service, GRVNC would get publicity and supports the proposal. The money would go into a general volunteer fund. This could be figured out, many other organizations are contributing.

NN; we would like to ensure adequate acknowledgement within our community for our support.

Deanna Stevenson would like GRVNC to have a booth at the health fare.

LL; Venice organizations are already donating goods, the truck thing could be a lot of work.

Move that the Council approve the \$1,000.00 allocation and further my

working with Mr. Bradyon the kinds of activities that we will invest in for the Mayors Day on May 7th.

Moved by NN, 2nd by YG

Motion carries 16-0-0

b. Executive Committee

Approve appointment of Sara Mannes as chair of Animal Welfare Ad Hoc Committee.

Move that we affirm the decision to appoint Sara Mannes as chair of the ad hoc Animal Welfare Committee

Moved by PR, 2nd by YG

LL would like to hear from Sara Mannes re her qualifications.

Sara Mannes has been in Venice for 3 years and has been acting as an animal welfare activist and wants to incorporate into the GRVNC. Working with stake holders to bring issues to the LA City council such as animal cruelty and the elephant issue and what ever the community wants to address. Wants to be point person for other various Venice animal interests. Main goal is to work with others towards a no kill shelter system in LA

Motion carries 16-0-0

c. Land Use & Planning Committee

i. Affirm LUPC decision regarding 938 Palms Ave, 2 unit condo project

LJC has left the building which is why there are now 16 people voting.

CM has distributed the 2 LUPC motions to the Board

Frank Murphy introduced his project and spoke in favor for 1 minute

3 speakers spoke against approval

12 speaker spoke in favor of approval

1 speaker made general comment

5 in lieu of cards in favor

2 in lieu of cards against

Move that we accept LUPC recommendation to approve this project.

Moved by DP, 2nd by YG

CM; The VSP is the LUPC rules of engagement this is how we're supposed to review projects. I've received 23 emails for the project.

SM want to know how Murphy will identify local community members to participate in the project.

Frank Murphy; employs local contractors and is open to hiring more local people.

IM; would you be willing to work with the 300 petition signers?

Frank Murphy; would be willing to have another open house

PR; no variance sought for 6' tall fence at front of property and other request for modification was withdrawn by Murphy, so no variance requested at all. Subscribes to scale and character issues and notes that the VSP is not an entitlement.

CB; plenty of examples of 3 story buildings and that the property is zoned for 2 units, opening between the buildings allows for light & air, architecture is varied in pitch & is interesting.

DP; notes a variance was not requested only a modification.

SP; tried to find an alternate for that nights meeting, would have told the committee that these on small lots shouldn't even be considered and that we all have some conflict of interest. Doesn't know that the committee is serving any great purpose.

CJC; has reservation about the condo aspect of the project

MK; property owners can form their own homeowners association and form your own CC&R's to restrict the type of development etc. in your neighborhood. note that petitions are not copied to the committees. A single family house could be bigger.

Motion carries 11-3-2

ii. Affirm LUPC decision regarding 1633 AKB, restaurant proposal.

CM; 1633 Abott Kinney Bl. conversion from catering to a restaurant. The LUPC motion was to support the application on the condition that the applicant proved payment into the Venice parking fund for all parking spaces they are unable to provide and that any valet parking be arranged so that the valet parking not take up public space. PR and CM went to the public hearing and that the hearing office knew about the LUPC action. CM & PR did not represent GRVNC but spoke as private citizens.

Suzanne Thompson attended public hearing opposed to project because the City Engineering Dept is dragging their feet on providing additional public parking, opposes project. Want parking built.

PR; the owners of the project agreed to comply with the LUPC conditions, will lease parking.

Move that we accept the LUPC motion.

Moved by CM, 2nd by PR

Motion carries 10-4-2

d. Rules and Election Committee:

i. Approve May 1, 2006 Bylaws Ratification election procedures

Move to use the procedures we used for our last bylaws vote for the May 1, 2006 bylaws election.

Moved by RM, 2nd by NN

RM; here is no provision for vote by mail.

Motion carries 13-1-0

SM not present for the vote.

ii. Approve election procedures for September 2006 Board of Officers election

RM; Done has passed election rules, we need to submit draft procedures for approval, we're submitting our previous rules with minor modification for weekend of Sept 16 and 17. Rules and elections will run the election and will allow election day registration per the schedule. There will more opportunities to review this draft.

Move that we approve the election procedures for September 2006 Board of Officers elections.

Moved by CM, 2nd by MK

Motion and 2nd withdrawn by CM in favor of RM motion

RM; please amend to read

Move the we accept the draft election procedures as submitted further to accept the draft election time line from J Kvasnicka and further to authorize the Rules & Elections Committee to make any further date changes as required to accommodate DONE and Mr. Kvasnicka's schedule.

Moved by RM, 2nd by PR

Motion carries 14-0-1

10. Committee Reports

DA; consent of the Board to move item 10d to before Item 10a, without objection.

b. Overnight Parking District (OPD) Committee report

Diane Butler; tenants from Lincoln Place are living in campers we're what makes Venice Venice

Hugh Moore; folks on the OFW deserve a better break than this.

Doris Singleton; displaced after loosing job, living in mobile home, could happen to anyone.

Lester Bybee; motor home is all I have, I can't afford any other housing.

Suzane Verdal; there is heroism in the streets and people living in their campers want dignity, wants some dedicated camper parking on a pay as you go basis.

Darlene Knoll; has been harassed by police, wants to have a motor home safe haven.

Abraham; lives in RV, wants to, it's his right.

d. Ocean Front Walk Committee report

LL: 4215 is not perfect, next meeting 5/5/2006, committee will entertain evening meetings. See attached report, Appendix A

a. Executive Committee

i. Report of standing rules regulating LUPC appointments and rescissions.

ii. Announcement of creation of SR90/Admiralty Way ad hoc committee.

iii. Report on appointment of Linda Lucks as delegate to Lincoln Place mediation.

iv. Report of motion regarding recusal & conflict of interest

c. Disaster Preparedness Committee report

e. Rule & Elections report on grievance form

Committee has created a grievance form and will submit proposal for Grievance Committee

f. Arts Committee

DP relinquishes chair of committee to SD

SD happy to accept want to transform committee into public work/arts committee.

Appointment to be confirmed at next meeting

11. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Michael Palumbo presented his plans for Lincoln place.

Noel Weiss, 850 units at Lincoln PL is critical, it's the lever for the negotiations
Bill Rosendahl need to stand by his commitment to recode the conditions

John Michael; object to Rosendahl's going back on his word out of east side greed.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 by acclamation.

END TAPE

APENDIX A

Report on 4/7/06 Meeting- Oakwood Recreation Center Venice Beach Free Expression Protection Working Group (formerly named Ocean Front Walk Committee

The meeting was co-chaired by Linda Lucks, GRVNC Representative and Lydia Ritzman, LA City Recreation and Parks- as per LAMC Ordinance 42.15, implemented on 3/25/06

The formal name change of the committee was made to bring the committee into compliance with the newly implemented ordinance requiring the committee be so named and the co-chairs Representative the NC and Recreation and Parks. Other City agencies were present to report on ordinance status and to answer questions as they arose: Mark Grant-Councilman Rosendahl's office; Gita O'Neil, Neighborhood prosecutor with City Attorney's office, Robert Haskin and Valerie Punzel of the LA Recreation and Parks Department. No representatives from LAPD were present.

Reports were given on the following old business:

- 1) Bill boards on OFW- as a result of the City losing litigation to enforce signage, currently all signage legal. The California Coastal Commission has given approval. An action item request to send a letter objecting to the alcohol signs will be placed in the next meeting agenda. Which will include a request that 50% of the funds collected by the advertisers be given to a fund to restore old and fund new murals.
- 2) Peacemakers- Steven Fiske gave an update on his efforts to secure funding for the Peacemakers while trying to insure the peace on the boardwalk.

Stakeholder Comment was taken about the implementation of the ordinance. Recreation and Parks reported that there is very good compliance, including the addition of new artists.

Members of the community expressed very specific concerns and problems and various vendors petitioned the committee to clarify the legality of selling specific items. The Neighborhood Prosecutor was clear in each case as to what is and what is not allowable under the new ordinance (No- jewelry or crafts , including prayer bead bracelets, whistles, books not written by the seller, incense, lotions and art not made by the artists). Testimony will be taken at each meeting to determine the specifics at issue as the ordinance rolls out and to identify "gray areas..

Complaints were heard about the limitations of the proscribed spaces, the space allocation/lottery system, the 12 O'clock rule, noise levels, size of canvas easels (4' rule) and how to report violations. Many were unhappy that their items are no longer salable on the West side of the boardwalk.

Stakeholders may call in questions or violations to 311 (City clearing house number), Pacific Division LAPD Substation- 310-391-5131 or 391-5170 between 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Or, go to the Recreation & Parks Office at the end or Windward to see Robert Haskin and where the new rules are posted. 1 Park Ranger is also assigned to the beach from 10-8 daily. LAPD will increase officers in May.

Next meeting will address issue of Encroachment by East side businesses.