

Venice Neighborhood Council  
**Board of Officers Meeting**  
Westminster Elementary School  
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291  
Tuesday, October 17, 2006

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

DeDe Audet called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm, and noted that a quorum was present.

Phil Raider called the roll; Board members present: DeDe Audet, Colette Bailey, C.J. Cole, Yolanda Gonzalez, Michael King, Linda Lucks, Challis Macpherson, Diana Pollard, Phil Raider, Mindy Taylor-Ross, Kelley S. Willis; Naomi Nightingale arrived later. Board members absent: L.J. Carusone, Sylviane Dungan, Peter Force, Brett Miller, Ingrid Mueller, Stan Mohammad, Richard Myers, Susan Papadakis, Rebecca Tafoya.

Mr. Raider asked that Board members that leave early announce their departure.

DeDe Audet introduced Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who came to present Certificates of Appreciation to departing Board members. Councilman Rosendahl thanked the Board for creating an effective, community involved tool a year ago; Councilman Rosendahl mentioned VNC work done on the land use issues vetted by the NC and the Venice Beach ordinance and stated his appreciation. Councilman Rosendahl introduced Mark Antonio Grant; certificates of appreciation were presented to Mindy Taylor-Ross, Ingrid Mueller, Suzanne Thompson, Susan Papadakis, L. J. Carusone, Brett Miller, and Stan Mohammad.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Collette Bailey noted that she had requested that her Committee report be moved earlier in the meeting, but since that was not done, Ms. Bailey requested that her Committee report be done at the next meeting, and suggested that it should take place earlier in the meeting.

C. J. Cole moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Mindy Taylor-Ross.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

**3. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2006.**

Phil Raider moved to table the approval of Minutes; seconded by Mindy Taylor-Ross.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

C. J. Cole provided copies of Year-to-Date Expenditures by Budget Category for the Venice Neighborhood Council and provided a brief synopsis of the Council's most up-to-date financial status, including accounts payable.

## **5. SCHEDULED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Special Inaugural Board Meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup>

DeDe Audet announced the inaugural Board meeting, which will take place at 7 pm at Westminster School and that Councilman Rosendahl has been invited to install the new Board Members.

- b. Board Member Orientation on October 19<sup>th</sup>

Ivan Spiegel reported there will be a Board member orientation meeting, and listed the subjects that will be covered, from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Extra Space Storage meeting room, on October 19, 2006.

- c. Resignation of Outreach Officer Elect L. J. Carusone

DeDe Audet regretfully announced that Mr. Carusone has tendered his resignation, due to relocation, and reported that a new election will take place. (Taken out of order) Ms. Audet invited stakeholders interested in the position to contact her or Phil Raider.

- d. Mayor's Budget Survey Announcement

Linda Lucks discussed the survey provided by the Mayor's office and asked how many Board members have completed the survey. All board members present indicated that they have completed the survey. Ms. Lucks invited stakeholders to complete the survey, noting that it can be accessed via the Internet. Ms. Lucks also stated that two Board members should be appointed to represent Venice Neighborhood Council at the Mayor's Budget Assembly.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

DeDe Audet asked if anyone had received an invitation to a party planned to welcome new Board members and noted the party will take place on October 22, 2006 at Aldus and Maria Brown's home.

Jim Smith reported that he is the first former Venice Neighborhood Council Board member to run for Congress, announced his status as Peace candidate and as a Peace and Freedom candidate, listed support for his candidacy from community members, spoke about his opponent, Jane Harman, and asked for support from Venice stakeholders.

David Buchanan asked stakeholders to support Denise Bowen's candidacy for Secretary of State, at a rally on Saturday, October 21, from 3-5 at C&O Cucina. Mr. Buchanan asked Board members to consider the issues to be discussed at today's meeting with the future Board in mind.

Challis Macpherson announced that Number 5 Rose is up for sale. Ms. Macpherson read the text of an announcement concerning the property.

Linda Lucks announced the first annual block party on Saturday, October 28, 2006, at Oceanfront Walk, noted that this is a valuable outreach opportunity and invited stakeholders to attend.

Daniel Samakow asked stakeholders to monitor graffiti in the Venice area and provided contact information for advising of graffiti. DeDe Audet asked if Mr. Samakow had been in contact with the VNC Graffiti Committee. Ms. Audet promised to facilitate contact between Mr. Samakow's group and the VNC Graffiti Committee. Kelley Willis asked if Mr. Samakow's group only monitored the Boardwalk. Linda Lucks thanked Mr. Samakow and the Venice Beach Merchants Association for creating this model; Ms. Lucks suggested the form be posted on the VNC website. DeDe Audet emphasized coordinating efforts, rather than duplicating them.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

Stuart Oscars, chairman of the Ad Hoc Overnight Parking Committee (OPD), gave an update on the Committee's efforts to date and provided copies of signed petitions from Berkeley Street to be forwarded to Councilman Rosendahl's office. Linda Lucks asked if any thought had been given to solutions for the overnight parking problem. Mr. Oscars listed solutions that have been explored, but noted that there has not been a satisfactory solution achieved. Yolanda Gonzalez reported that a City Council resolution has been passed that provides for overnight parking restrictions. Michael King noted that the petitions submitted are in fact in response to the City Council resolution. Linda Lucks asked Mr. Oscars to meet with her regarding this issue.

Robert Levy provided copies of material that corroborate his contention that petitions were signed in error. DeDe Audet asked if Mr. Levy provided this information to the OPD Committee; Mr. Levy stated that he had not received a response from the OPD Committee regarding the issue he raised. Ms. Audet asked if this issue is one that can be resolved by the OPD Committee; Mr. Oscars stated that the OPD Committee was under the impression that the issue had been resolved, and that any contest has to be filed with the Council office.

Rick Swinger, a stakeholder, voiced his opposition to restriction of overnight parking and public right of way enforcement.

Shyamala, a stakeholder, voiced her opposition to restriction of parking.

C.J. Cole moved to include the Berkeley Avenue Petition to Councilman Rosendahl; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez.

VOTE: 10 in favor; 1 against; 1 abstention.

a. Budget Committee

Emily Winters, representing the Venice Arts Council, and Suzanne Thompson, SPARC, discussed the two murals at issue and asked for financial support from VNC to restore the JAYA and Endangered Species murals. Ms. Thompson introduced Nathan Zakheim and his son, who have been awarded the bid to restore the murals. Mr. Zakheim discussed, at great length, the mechanism his firm will use to preserve the murals and provided detail on a graffiti deterrent process his firm has developed, as well as a presentation based on a television news segment that featured his firm. Challis Macpherson asked about the wax that is used as part of the restoration process.

Emily Winters thanked the Zakheims for appearing.

David Buchanan commented that the preservation and restoration aspects of this issue have to be viewed separately and suggested that the Board thoroughly review the issue.

Stewart Oscars voiced opposition to approving funding and suggested that the property owners be brought into the process

Nadine Parkos voiced opposition based on the fact that other projects are in need of restoration as well and suggested that a process be set up via a fair and open grant process to allow other projects to request funding for restoration.

Daniel Samakow discussed other mural restoration projects and noted that cost was an important factor.

Jim Smith voiced his support, stated that more murals are needed in the area, urged the Board's support and suggested creating a budget line item to support the issue.

Ron Rouda voiced support, and noted the historical and cultural aspects of murals in Venice.

Nancy Loncke voiced support for restoration of the murals.

Steve Freedman commented that Venice has a lot of murals, and that he supports the concept of mural restoration, but noted that the Venice Neighborhood Council should find a way to inventory, evaluate and prioritize those individual mural projects.

Darryl DuFay stated his group, the Voice of the Venice Canals, supported restoration and conservation of the JAYA mural, and urged the Board's support.

Steve Clare echoed comments made in support of the mural's restoration and asked the Board to view financial support as a means of leveraging support from others.

CJ Cole read a letter from Aldus Brown Fine Arts that reported a digital reproduction of a 15 x 60 square foot mural would cost approximately \$4500.

Ms. Cole referred to the process by which this issue was presented to the Venice Neighborhood Council, and noted that she did not support the restoration.

CJ Cole moved to table consideration of the mural restoration; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez.

Phil Raider noted that three cards had been provided in-lieu of speaking in favor of the mural restoration.

VOTE: 4 in favor; 7 against. The motion failed.

Linda Lucks moved to accept the proposal for the restoration of the two murals; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

CJ Cole left the meeting at this point

Mindy Taylor-Ross commented that arts cannot be copied and stapled to the wall and noted work done by SPARC to get this issue reviewed by the Venice Neighborhood Council. Colette Bailey asked if other bids or proposals have been provided, and noted that this is a good cause. Yolanda Gonzalez questioned why the property owner was not present and stated that VNC should not support the restoration without input from the property owner.

Emily Winters stated that the property owners have written letters in support of the restoration but evidently the owners could not appear.

It was remarked that the property owner is deceased and that the letter is signed by someone who is the authorized representative of the owner.

Naomi Nightingale voiced support for the project and stated that the Neighborhood Council should establish a mechanism by which issues like this one can be reviewed and decisions made.

Kelley Willis agreed that a photo replacement of the mural is aesthetically distasteful and stated that the amount requested is 40% of the funds available to the VNC. Mr. Willis voiced concern about the process precedent that is being set and asked about a warranty from Zakheim and a guarantee from property owners. Linda Lucks commended Emily Winters, noted her efforts to have the issue heard by several VNC committees, and voiced her support.

Challis Macpherson called for the question.

Phil Raider noted that the mural restored by the Zakheim firm in the news excerpt is almost obliterated, and asked how often the mural will need to be restored after being defaced with graffiti. Mr. Raider remarked that other ways to preserve and restore murals could be available. Mr. Raider stated that the Board cannot easily make a decision without input from the Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee and expressed concern that the Committee had not made a decision. Mr. Raider suggested a matching fund.

Yolanda Gonzalez suggested declaring zero tolerance for graffiti in Venice.

Naomi Nightingale noted that Ms. Gonzalez' suggestion is out of order and remarked that the graffiti issue should be addressed by more than one approach.

Linda Lucks asked Emily Winters to respond to questions raised by Board members. Ms. Winters stated that the funds requested from the Neighborhood Council would be spent to purchase wax and nothing else. Regarding the

maintenance issue, the restoration process will make maintenance easy. DeDe Audet clarified that the major issue is warranty. Nathan Zakheim stated that the warranty is in perpetuity so long as the protective layer is renewed every two years.

VOTE: 8 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions.

The motion passed.

Naomi Nightingale asked Emily Winters to make periodic reports on the progress of the restoration.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### a. Land Use and Planning Committee

- i. Letter of Support for Councilman Rosendahl's motion to extend Green Line to LAX

Challis Macpherson noted that Warren Bowman brought the issue to her attention. Mr. Bowman summarized the situation with regard to other light rail projects and asked for support.

Challis Macpherson moved to recommend that the Board of Officers send a letter of approval and encouragement to Councilmember Bill Rosendahl in support of his City Council motion to extend the Metro Green Line to LAX airport; seconded by Mindy Taylor-Ross.

Michael King asked to amend the motion to include mention of the Expo line. Kelley Willis rebutted that the subject Metro Green Line is key to extending the line to Santa Monica. DeDe Audet clarified that the issue at hand is the line to LAX; Naomi Nightingale stated she would support a friendly amendment. Phil Raider noted one speaker card received in lieu of speaking in support of the motion,

VOTE: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention. The motion carried.

- ii. Recommend Commercial Construction Moratorium for Lincoln Boulevard for projects that will generate more than 25 additional car trips per day at peak hours

Challis Macpherson noted a change, deleting "per day" from the agenda item. Ms. Macpherson and Michael King clarified that the two words were verbiage that are unneeded, because peak hours in a traffic study change depending on the location.

Phil Raider moved to support the recommendation of the Land Use and Planning Committee and forward the moratorium language to Bill Rosendahl as the official position of the Venice Neighborhood Council; seconded by Yolanda Gonzalez.

In answer to Kelley Willis's question, Challis Macpherson explained why Lincoln Blvd. is the only Venice street mentioned.

VOTE: 9 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention. The motion carried.

- iii. Support application for beer/wine license at 68 North Venice Boulevard by The Commissary

Daniel Samokow summarized the presentation made to the Land Use and Planning Committee and noted that both the City Council and the Land Use and Planning Committee have voted to support his application. Collette Bailey asked how soon. Phil Raider noted four speaker cards in favor and one against.

David Buchanan commended the owners' efforts to upgrade the area and recommended support.

Phil Raider moved that the Venice Neighborhood Council support the decision of the Land Use and Planning Committee and support the application for a beer and wine license at 68 North Venice Boulevard; seconded by Linda Lucks.

Kelley Willis asked what discussion had taken place with the existing liquor store. Challis Macpherson noted consensus by LUPC that there are two different markets and that the existing liquor store owner had not agreed.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

- iv. Support new apartment building project at 1101-1109 Venice Boulevard

Challis Macpherson noted presentations made to the Land Use and Planning Committee regarding this project and remarked that she considered it to be a great project.

Phil Raider moved that the Venice Neighborhood Council support the decision of the Land Use and Planning Committee in supporting the apartment project at 1101-1107 Venice Boulevard; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

Michael King moved to amend the motion to restrict the approval to the owner of this property; seconded by Challis Macpherson.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the amendment.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion as amended passed.

Yolanda Gonzalez left the meeting. There no longer being a quorum, the remainder of the agenda items were tabled by common consent.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Grievance
- b. Overnight Parking District
  
- c. Disaster Preparedness

(Taken out of order) DeDe Audet announced that the County of Los Angeles is taking the lead on Large Wave Preparedness, and noted having attended a meeting on preparedness for tsunami. Ms. Audet promised to send Collette Bailey information on the evacuation plan proposed.

- d. Ocean Front Walk
- e. Education
- f. Rules and Elections
- g. Government Relations
- h. Arts
- i. Beautification and Culture

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Ivan Spiegel noted that the majority of the outgoing Board members chose not to attend this last meeting of their elected term of service and because of this the lack of a quorum precluded any further action on the Board's part. Mr. Spiegel asked the remaining Board members to remember this at the end of their own terms.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by common consent.