

1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the Neighborhood Committee:

I wish to serve on the Neighborhood Committee representing the Oakwood-Milwood area because I've lived here for over thirty years and worked here for 24 years and I love Venice. I particularly love the Oakwood and the Milwood area. I live directly across from the Oakwood Recreation Center. I have seen and know the good and the bad about this area. I know the issues, the people, the hopes, and the problems of the area. For the last 24 years, I worked with Venice 'at-risk' youth as a teacher at Phoenix High School, the continuation high school behind Venice High. I am very familiar with the problems facing our youth - white/ black/ hispanic, upper-class, lower-class. When I moved here 30 years ago, I was 'white-trash' welfare mother. I raised my kids here. I've helped raise a lot of kids in Venice. Students from 20 years ago and last year stop me on the streets for a warm greeting. I want to see my neighborhood continue to be a welcoming place to raise our children.

2) Please list your previous and or/current neighborhood or community involvement.

My involvement has primarily been through my work at Phoenix High School. In the late 70's and early 80's I was active in V.O.P. food coop on Brooks Ave. I was a major leader of the Venice Community Playgroup, a cooperative playschool which operated out of the old City Hall (now Beyond Baroque). I have regularly attended various community meetings and functions through the years, but I have not been active except for some volunteer work with the Art Walk, the Palms Court Jazz festival, and the Halloween party at the Oakwood Recreation Center. I am currently an active member of the newly formed Venice Community Safety and Development Committee.

. have recently retired so I am looking to get involved in helping my community.

3) Please list the three most pressing issues you feel are facing the Venice Community.

1. I think that racial relationship between white/black/ hispanic/ upper/middle/ lower class/ newcomer / old-timers has always been and remains an issue. We need to get to know and feel comfortable with ALL our neighbors. We need to find ways to bridge the gaps and find our common humanity.

2. While respecting and meeting the needs of all property

owners and businesses, we need to stop or slow down the intense overbuilding that is occurring on every block in Venice. What is the point of having a Community Plan if it's not enforced and constantly changing. We need to honor the needs of the small property owners and respect tenant concerns.

3. Traffic and general safety. Children need to feel safe and have activities. Our youth need both activities, jobs, and job-training. People need to feel safe walking the sidewalks or crossing the street. Everyone needs to feel safe in their homes. Now that everyone has locked gates and high fences, no one knows their neighbors. That is not safe. We need to encourage community activities that encourage neighborliness which results in a safer neighborhood.

4) This committee shall promote greater awareness of available City resources and services and act as a conduit between the Board and Venice neighborhoods, assisting in community outreach and bringing neighborhood issues to the attention of the Board. How do you plan to fulfill this obligation?

I intend to go to many of the meetings that occur in this area and listen to what the concerns and needs are. I will go to open meetings and ask permission to attend Board meetings of the various groups, agencies, and organizations from the churches and SPARC, to Venice 2000 and the Oakwood Advisory Board, to the Venice Community Housing Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce, etc. . I am looking for overlap of services and lack of services.

As I said, I am newly retired so I have the time.

5) What is your Vision for Venice?

My vision for Venice is that it continues to be a neighborhood for ALL the people ALL the time. My vision is that Venice continues to be a neighborhood and all that that implies. My vision is that Venice continues to be a thriving and safe and vibrant community. My vision for Oakwood and Venice is that that precious resource called the Oakwood Recreation Center become a beacon of light for the community with activities night and day that are of interest to ALL the community. I want to see community plays there, I want to hear music there, I want to see yoga for seniors/teens, art classes, I want to see parenting classes, and job-readiness preparation for both youth and reentering adults. I want to see AA and NA meetings held there I want to see people of all races and all ages regularly going in and out.

I am a walker. I walk ALL the neighborhoods of Venice thrilling to its diversity and uniqueness. I want to always feel that way.