Report of Education Committee to VNC Board - July 17, 2007

(Excerpted from meeting minutes from May and June 2007)

The Education Committee may be coordinating with other VNC committees as directed by Board to hold workshop for stakeholders. This was suggested by DONE as a pilot program to educate stakeholders on the Neighborhood Council and encourage stakeholders to run for NC positions.

The Education Committee will propose that VNC sponsor adult education courses taught by experts through DVDs to small groups of stakeholders interested in particular topics. A taskforce will propose a selection of ten or so courses available (out of hundreds); a flyer listing these courses will be circulated to stakeholders and on VNC website. This flyer will also request input for interest in courses not listed within, and best days and times to attend classes. Groups of students can then be coordinated by taskforce and viewing plus discussion dates set up. DVDs to be purchased (and possibly borrowed) by VNC.

Concern raised by stakeholders about the Venice community, and in particular Oakwood, being used in a negative manner to obtain grant money for school based projects. Crime statistics are much improved and violence is down in Oakwood, and focusing on a problem that does not exist creates a stigma for the Oakwood community in particular and Venice as a whole. This impacts the schools because stakeholders don't want to send their children to neighborhood schools because of perceived violence. Most Venice schools have a declining student population.

Stakeholders requested that Education Committee invite Parks and Recs Department spokesperson to speak on educational opportunities available in Penmar and Oakwood Parks. Also Walgrove School walking track which was built with Prop K funds and should be open to the public but is not.

Stakeholders proposed putting signage above computers at Venice Library and other public places saying something like: "this community has a neighborhood council, and here's how you reach them" (to find out about events in the community, issues to be discussed at public meetings, etc...)

Stakeholders proposed that VNC expand calendar similar to that by Mar Vista Neighborhood Council, which includes all community events, not only those that are part of VNC.