

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council
REC & Related Proposals to Board – Old Business Agenda items

The four proposals below were postponed by the Board to its March 20, 2007 meeting because of time limitations at the Board Meeting where these proposals were originally presented – March 20, 2007 meeting being selected to enable the Board to conveniently conform to Bylaws requirements without causing unnecessary duplication of stakeholder meetings (Town Hall Meeting, elections regarding Bylaw amendments, affirmation/replacement of officers appointed to vacant Board positions).

- i. The REC recommends that the Board amend the Bylaws to add the Ocean Front Walk Committee as a Standing Committee of the VNC. The Bylaw 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, sanitation and recycling, public nuisance, public safety, and interaction with law enforcement and other officials of the City and County of Los Angeles.*

REC motion passed 3-0.

- ii. The REC recommends that the Board amend the Bylaws to add the Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee as a Standing Committee of the VNC. The Bylaw language shall read as follows:

***Arts, Beautification and Culture Committee:** Chaired by Community Officer nominated by the Administrative Committee, subject to approval by the Board. The Committee has the general responsibility to advise the VNC by recommending actions to facilitate the arts, beautification and culture in Venice.*

REC motion passed 2-1.

- iii. This Agenda Request asks that the Board consider and adopt the following amendment to the Bylaws:

G. Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies:

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

Submitted by Joe Murphy; Agenda Committee placed this on the agenda.

Comment: The above suggested timing of the election is the same as the timing specified in Article IX A 2 dealing with amendments to the Bylaws by the Board of Officers. Article IV D reads as follows:

D. Immediate Past President: The Immediate Past President shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Administrative Committee and Board of Officers, and shall be the principal conduit of the Neighborhood Council institutional memory.

Since the Article IV D uses the term ‘non-voting’ whereas Article IV G 4 does not, it is possible that ‘ex officio’ was not intended to mean ‘non-voting’. If so, its presence in Article IV G 4 (and in Article IV D) could be perceived as superfluous. The terms ‘ex officio’ and ‘non-voting’ do not appear anywhere in the Bylaws except in Article IV D & G 4 as stated above. Robert’s Rules of Order gives voting rights to ‘ex officio’ officers.

- iv. The REC recommends that the Board consider and adopt the following Standing Rule:

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

REC motion passed 3-0.