MOTION

That the Venice Neighborhood Council recommend to Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilman Rosendahl that the City purchase, through current and/or future park bond funds and/or federal grants, the Postal Annex at Windward Circle and convert it to a park with the existing structure adapted to use as an eco-friendly multi-purpose community center offering space for an art, photograph and sculpture gallery, rehearsal, performance and dance facilities, a small screening room, community meeting room(s) and related facilities such as restrooms and kitchen. The facility is to be fenced and closed at night.

Adaptive Re-Use Proposal to Create a Windward Circle Park and Community/Arts Center

- The Venice Postal Annex, located on Windward Circle between Windward and Grand Avenues, has been offered for sale by the Federal Government. Our understanding is that they are looking for a buyer to provide land and cash for the property.
- The triangular piece of land is listed as 77,722 square feet and is zoned into three parcels. The eastern portion is zoned commercial, the large middle area is zoned as parking and a small tip at the west is zoned commercial.
- The property is part of the original Venice of America Tract subdivided by Abbot Kinney. It has seen various incarnations, from the Venetian Villas and Cosmos Social Club that included open park space, to a grocery store, and its present use/state as a U.S. Postal sorting facility.
- As neighbors to this large plot of land, our hope is to have the site reused in an environmentally sensitive manner while restoring it as an open park space. To compliment Venice's arts history and culture, we want to preserve the existing structure for use as a community/arts/performance center, while up-dating the building to current energy standards. This will add beauty to the neighborhood and a central gathering place for Venice residents and visitors and compliment the recently restored Venice sign on Pacific and the plaza at Speedway and Windward.
- Our thought is to reuse the existing building, which is 17,000 s.f., with a large, open floor plan. The proposed renovation imagines this space as several flexible multipurpose rooms potentially including rehearsal, dance and performance space, a rotating art, photography and/or sculpture gallery, a classroom, meeting rooms, cinema room, kitchen, restrooms and a small office. (Drawings attached.)

• The open space is imagined as a park, with drought tolerant plants, decomposed granite walkway, sculpture garden and possibly a water feature. The goal is to tie into the Windward Circle, and possibly bring in some Venice historical features like a permanent historical photo exhibition, a gondola sculpture, etc. One concept would include recreation of one of the original Venice-of-America bridges over a stretch of canal

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The undersigned Venice residents respectfully call upon their elected officials to purchase, through park bond funds and/or federal grants, the Postal Annex at Windward Circle and convert it to a park with the existing structure adapted to use as an eco-friendly multi-purpose community center offering space for an art, photograph and sculpture gallery, rehearsal, performance and dance facilities, a small screening room, community meeting room(s) and related facilities such as restrooms and kitchen.

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