



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org

Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627



Board of Officer Meeting Agenda Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium) 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291 **Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

BOARD MEETINGS: The Venice Neighborhood Council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month and may also call any additional required special meetings in accordance with its Bylaws and the Brown Act. All are welcome to attend.

TRANSLATION Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391.

POSTING: The agenda and *non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of regular and special meetings may be viewed at* Groundworks Coffee (671 Rose Ave.), Penmar Park (1341 Lake St), Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd), the Venice Library (501 S. Venice Blvd), Oakwood Recreation Center (767 California St.), The Venice Ale House (425 Ocean Front Walk), and the VNC website (<http://www.venicenc.org>), or at the scheduled meeting. For a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC secretary at secretary@venicenc.org.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any Old or New Business item on the agenda and the Treasurer's Report. Comments from the public on these agenda items will be heard only when that item is being considered. Comments from the public on other agenda matters or on matters not appearing on the agenda but within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker, unless modified by the presiding officer of the Board. No new speaker cards will be accepted once Public Comment has begun.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call (7:00PM – 5 minutes)**

- A The meeting is called to order in memory * **Maxi Saro**, father of VNC Neighborhood Committee member Colleen Saro; * **Dora Benderson**, Mother of Bob Benderson; a longtime Venice resident, author **Ray Bradbury**. and * **Oscar Duncan**, Boys and Girls Club employee, Youth Pastor and Venice High School graduate.
- B Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to **Robin Rudisill**, member of the Neighborhood & Public Safety Committees for her work on Washington Blvd. Beach Parking Lot; to **Whole Foods** for providing food for VNC meetings providing a hot breakfast each Sunday on Venice Beach and for organizing a Neighborhood clean-up.

2. **Approval of the Agenda (7:05PM – 5 minutes)**

3. **Approval of Outstanding Board Minutes (7:10PM – 5 minutes)**

<http://venicenc.org/files/120515BoardMinutesDraft.pdf>

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (7:15 -- 10 minutes)

[5 speakers, no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]

- ### 4. **Presentation --Urgent Update and Call to Action for Community Anti Gang Intervention on the murder of Oscar Duncan , Venice Boys and Girls Leader murdered last week (7:25 -- 10 minutes)** Stan Muhammad, Venice 2000, former VNC Board member



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5. Election to fill Board Community Officer Seat (7:35 -- 10 Minutes)

Candidates:

Benjamin Ballentine, Rita Hart Cooney, Mark Rojas, Tom Sauer

Each candidate will have a minute to remind you of who they are and the vote will follow. The elected Community Officer will be seated immediately.

Applications posted online at <http://www.venicenc.org/node/2115> for Community Officer replacements.

6. Consent Calendar (7:45PM – 5 minutes)

[No discussion or Public Comment. Items may be removed and they will go to the end of the agenda]

- A **Motion to Support letter to South Coast Air Quality Management D** Laura Silagi, Co-chair of the VNC Santa Monica Airport Ad Hoc committee lrsilagi@gmail.com Passed unanimously on May 23, 2012 **[EXHIBIT A]**

MOTION: WHEREAS: Santa Monica Airport's (SMO) aircraft operations negatively impact VNC stakeholders with exposure to lead from piston aircraft pattern flying as well as particulates from jet operations and,

WHEREAS: Multiple studies have demonstrated that there are elevated levels of air pollutants such as lead, black carbon, and ultrafine particulate matter on Santa Monica Airport property as well as in neighboring residential areas; scientific studies by the SCAQMD, UCLA, and the USEPA have shown very high pollution levels directly attributed to aircraft operations at SMO and,

WHEREAS: Lead can have irreversible brain and nerve damage, severe developmental impacts on children as well as adverse impacts on adults. Lead has been found to have neurological impacts on children, leading to behavioral problems, learning problems, and lowered IQ. Adults, when exposed to lead, can suffer cardiovascular problems such as high blood pressure, and heart disease. Finally, lead exposure has also been found to have negative impacts on the nervous system, kidney function, immune systems, and reproductive ability, and

WHEREAS: Local residents living in proximity with the airport face an elevated risk of cancer. Cancer risks to local residents from SMO significantly exceed the guideline lifetime cancer risk of one in a million individuals for cancer risk from maximum exposure to a source of air pollutants under the Federal Clean Air Act. 42 U.S.C. § 7412. According to a study sponsored by the Los Angeles Unified School District, cancer risk arising from maximum exposure to air pollution generated by activities at SMO for local residents ran thirteen to twenty-six in one million, and

WHEREAS: SMO has a disproportionate environmental health impact on local residents because SMO is unique in having dense residential development starting less than 300 feet from the ends of the runway with no buffer zone between the runway ends and the surrounding community and,



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WHEREAS: SCAQMD is legally required to implement an Indirect Source Review rule controlling emissions from Santa Monica Airport. The California Clean Air Act requires that SCAQMD "provide for indirect source controls in those areas of the south coast district in which there are high-level, localized concentrations of pollutants"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Venice Neighborhood Council shall send a letter to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), requesting that the SCAQMD impose an "Indirect Source Review Rule" on the Santa Monica Airport.

B **Support for Appeal to Overturn City Approval for Cell Tower** Agnes Huff
ahuff@ahuffgroup.com

[EXHIBIT B]

MOTION: The VNC Board supports an appeal to deny the installation of a cell tower on top of the Best Western Hotel at 737 Washington Blvd., reversing the Zoning Administrator's decision for the following reasons (which were previously provided to the ZA:

1. Cannot make findings required for variance to VCZSP specifically in over height and not stepped backed properly (violating VCZSP Section 10.G.3.a and Certified Venice Land Use Plan Policy I.A.1 and Exhibits 13-16);
2. Does not fall within the exception of VCZSP 9.C.2 (not essential building function) that allows for 5 extra feet of height,
3. Lack of data, including, drawings, renderings, visual impacts and additional development area required for proposed new antennas.
4. Failure to present on alternatives or lack of alternatives location.
5. Continued overwhelming community opposition with the appeal, including over 450+ signed petitions.

This appeal will be heard by the Area Planning Commission on June 20, 2012.

C **Responsibility for Milwood Walk Streets Walk-Path Maintenance** Marc Saltzberg on behalf of the Neighborhood Committee marc.saltzberg@VeniceNC.org

MOTION : WHEREAS, the Milwood Walk Street Neighborhood has for years not known which City of Los Angeles Department has responsibility for walk-path maintenance and improvements in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Milwood Walk Street Neighborhood has recently been informed by City officials that such walk street maintenance and improvement are the responsibility of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks but the Department of Recreation and Parks has not been responsive to requests from the community to accept such responsibility nor to designate an employee to be a point of contact for the community and;

WHEREAS, the neighborhood has not received any formal notification from the City of Los Angeles as to the responsibility for their walk-paths,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Venice Neighborhood Council and the community receive formal notification prior to July 17, 2012 from the City of Los Angeles as to the City



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Department responsible for maintenance and improvement of the walk-paths in the Millwood Walk Street Neighborhood in Venice, and that such notification include Department contact information, the name and title of the person responsible for community contact, and the terms of such responsibility.

This motion shall be forwarded to LA City Council District 11 Representative Bill Rosendahl and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Venice Walk Streets Neighborhood Association.

D Neighborhood Council Response to Councilman Parks' Motion on Neighborhood Council Outreach Plans Ivan Spiegel on behalf of LANCC parliamentarian@venicenc.org

[EXHIBIT C]

MOTION : The VNC Board approves the LANCC motion responding to Councilman Bernard Parks' motion requiring neighborhood councils to appear before the Education & Parks Committee to present their outreach plans for reporting on impending City Council motions. See exhibits. A letter will be sent to all City Council members and the Mayor's Office.

E Motion to Petition Elected Leaders to Take Action to Retain Historic Venice Main Post Office and Those in Other Communities Across the Nation Amanda Seward and Jed Pauker on behalf of the VNC Post Office Task Force, Coalition to Save Venice Post Office jed.pauker@venicenc.org

MOTION : Whereas: Post offices have provided essential information exchange since our country's founding, becoming town centers important to the unity of their communities and with the buildings becoming historic landmarks, and

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has been shackled since 2006 by uniquely crafted, uniquely implemented legislation introducing a pre-funding obligation whose excessive burden is borne by no other public agency and no private business, and

The USPS is our nation's most trusted public service, satisfying its by-law Universal Service Obligation to serve all Americans, regardless of geography, at uniform price and quality, and reaching more Americans than every other information exchange at any cost, yet

The USPS has failed in its due diligence obligation to justify and/or validate closure of Venice Main Post Office or to protect Venice Main Post Office's historic resources in the event of sale, and

Venice Main Post Office and its customers have already been severely impacted by a service reduction such that the facility operates out of compliance with USPS regulations, and the USPS's action to relocate a percentage of current Venice Main Post Office services exacerbates the agency's non-compliance and further harms Venice Main Post Office customers, and



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The USPS is our nation's third largest employer, and is one of our nation's largest employers of minorities, led by African-Americans, who make up 21% of Postal workers, and the USPS is our nation's single largest employer of veterans, who make up 130,000, or 22% of its ranks, and nearly 49,000 of whom are disabled, and

Current plans to close ten percent of Postal revenue centers, with further plans to close fifty percent of Postal revenue centers will decrease Postal revenue while disproportionately harming American minorities and veterans, and

Currently proposed Congressional legislation would: destroy 200,000 public service jobs, threaten a 1.3 trillion dollar mailing industry that employs 7.5 million private-sector workers, threaten small businesses, rural customers, elderly customers and medicine recipients by ending Saturday delivery, force closure of thousands more post offices, severely reduce Postal revenues by slowing mail service, alienate millions of Americans in thousands of communities by withdrawing their town centers, while ignoring the single cause of the Postal Service's manufactured crisis, and

The USPS is financially sound and would rank as number 35 on the 2011 Fortune 500 if it were a private agency, and produces its own positive cashflow, without cost to taxpayers, solely from sales of stamps and related products, and

The USPS is our government's only guarantee to provide all Americans with equal, affordable and free speech access to information exchange, and must continue to satisfy its Universal Service Obligation, and

Venice Main Post Office is one of hundreds of historic post offices and thousands of regular post offices that are essential to the civic life of small towns and large cities across the nation, and

Halting postal facility closures, relocations and consolidations will save livelihoods and, potentially, lives of public servants and customers during this Great Recession while providing much-needed stimulation for our country's economy, and

Acknowledging through action that the unparalleled economic and intrinsic value of our country's most trusted public service can benefit our country's Congressional public servants,

Venice Neighborhood Council, on behalf of a community united from all areas of the political spectrum, now therefore calls upon

Councilperson Bill Rosendahl, Los Angeles City Council, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Assembly Member Betsy Butler, Senator Ted Lieu, Congresspersons Janice Hahn and Henry Waxman, Governor Jerry Brown and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to respond in a like united action to petition President Barack Obama to execute and sign an Executive Order to:



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- 1) Direct the Postmaster General to bring to an immediate end all sales, closures, consolidations and relocations of historic post offices, and
- 2) Direct the Postmaster General to end closures, consolidations and relocations of all other postal facilities.
- 3) Relieve the USPS of its unique and undue pre-funding burden,
- 4) Refund all currently held USPS over payments.

Supporting Documents can be found at:

http://venicenc.org/files/MOTION%20to%20Petition%20Elected%20Leaders%20to%20Take%20Action_SupportDocs.pdf

F Removal of Landscaping in lots 701 & 703 James Murez murez@venice.net

MOTION: Write a letter to council office requesting DOT Off-Street Parking find an alternate solution to the request made by LAPD to remove landscaping from the visitor serving parking lot on Venice Blvd. (commonly referred to as LA City Lot 701 and 731).

Background: LAPD has stated they have received several compliant calls from the neighbors about people sleeping overnight in these lots. They have also said these people are storing private property in and behind the bushes. Officer Thusing stated it is difficult for LAPD to patrol these lots because the vegetation is too tall and dense for the officers to get a clear view of the lot.

Possible Alternate Solution:

1. Around the exterior of the lots remove Fountain grass and Flax plants that exceed 18" at maturity and replace them with native grasses specified on the Venice Blvd. Landscape plans with a variety that does not grow taller than 18" at maturity.
2. Trim the tops of the boginvia plants along the Venice Way side of lot 701 to not exceed the height of the concrete wall.
3. Raise the canopy of the Oak trees where possible to allow a minimum of 6' of clearance below.
4. Remove all the plants (excluding the trees) in the center island of 701 and replace with native grasses specified on the Venice Blvd. Landscaping Plans that do not grow greater than 12" at maturity.

7. Presentation by Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich (7:50 -- 60 minutes)

Remarks by the City Attorney on issues of concerns to the Venice community

8. Scheduled Announcements (8:50PM – 25 minutes)

[No discussion or Public Comment]

A PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) (5 minutes) Update on Councilman



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Rosendahl's Roadmap to Homes Program, Joel Roberts, Joel.Roberts@epath.org), Tomasz Babiszkiwicz (tomaszb@epath.org); *This report includes statistics on the number of people placed in permanent and temporary housing as well as the numbers of people in process.*

B Public Safety - LAPD Report (10 minutes): Lt. Paola Kreeft, Venice Beach Detail; Senior Lead Officers Peggy Thusing/Kristan Delatore 31914@lapd.lacity.org , Gregg Jacobus, (310-622-3968; 25120@lapd.lacity.org, 35162@lapd.lacity.org, 31142@lapd.lacity.org). *This report includes crime reports, updates on the status enforcement of the OFW Vending ordinance (LAMC 42.15) and outcomes of enforcement in Venice in general and of rules regarding the closure of Ocean Front Walk from Midnight to 5 a.m.*

C Governmental Reports (10 Minutes)

- **U.S. Congress Representative Janice Hahn**, Deputy Natalie Rodgers, (Natalie.Rodgers@mail.house.gov) 310-831-1799
- **State Senator Ted Lieu**, Representative, Veronica Zendejas (Veronica.Zendejas@sen.ca.gov) 310-318-6994
- **State Assemblyperson Betsy Butler**, Representative, Stephanie Romero, Stephanie.Romero@asm.gov 310-615-3515
- **LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky**, 213-974-3333
- **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa**; Joseph Hari, West Area Representative (Joseph.Hari@lacity.org) 310-479-3823
- **Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Department, Ken Foreman, Facilities and Property Maintenance Divison Chief**, KForeman@bh.lacounty.gov, 310.305.9559
- **City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl**: Cecilia Castillo, Field Deputy (310-568-8772); (Cecilia.castillo@lacity.org); Arturo Pina, District Director (Arturo.Pina@lacity.org)

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (9:15 - 5 minutes)
[5 speakers, no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]

9. Old Business (9:20 - 10 Minutes)
[Discussion and possible Action]

A Election to fill Open Seat on VNC Land Use and Planning Committee Seat

Candidates:

Mia Herren, Michael Jensen, Mehrnoosh Mojallali, Maury Ruano

Each candidate will have a minute to remind you of who they are and the vote will follow. Applications posted online at <http://www.venicenc.org/node/2702> for the LUPC candidates.



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10. New Business (9:30 minutes)
[Discussion and possible action.]

A Approval Of 2012-2013 VNC Budget (9:30 -- 10 minutes) Hugh Harrison, Treasurer,
treasurer@venicenc.org **[EXHIBIT D]**

MOTION: The VNC Board approves the 2012-2013 VNC Budget as submitted by the Budget Committee.

B Presentation Of Neighborhood Committee's Rankings Of The 2012-2013 Community Improvement Projects (9:40 -- 10 minutes) Ivan Spiegel, CIP Program Administrator,
Parliamentarian@Venicenc.org The Board will approve the rankings at the July meeting.

C Community Care Facilities Ordinance (9:50 -- 30 minutes) Karen Wolfe
wolfepack@verizon.net **[EXHIBIT E]**

MOTION : The Venice Neighborhood Council Opposes the proposed Community Care Ordinance (CF#11-0262.) and strongly urges the City Council to deny enacting an ordinance that is poor public policy with severe unintended consequences.

Copy of ordinance: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-0262_RPT_ATT_09-13-2011.pdf

The board previously tabled a WRAC motion on the subject. This motion is different.

Community Impact Statement

At a publicly noticed meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council on June 19, 2012, a quorum of the Board voted to OPPOSE the Community Care Facilities ordinance (CF#11-0262.). It was further resolved that the ordinance is poor public policy with severe unintended consequences.

VOTE: ___ YES ___ NO ___ Abstain ___ Absent

D Approval Of Election Procedures (10:20 -- 5 minutes) Ivan Spiegel, Elizabeth Wright on behalf of the 2012 Election Committee parliamentarian@venicenc.org, Matt Kline on behalf of the Outreach Committee **[EXHIBIT F]**

MOTION : The VNC Board approves the Election Procedures Worksheet as submitted by the 2012 Election and Outreach Committees.

E Cell Tower Policy Statement (10:25 -- 15 minutes) James Murez on behalf of LUPC
murez@venice.net **[EXHIBIT G]**

MOTION : The Venice Neighborhood Council supports concept as presented 4-22-2012, including a moratorium for up to 1-year while VNC Cell Tower Task Force develops a formal



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policy based on Community Impact Statement presented.

Motion made by John Reed, Seconded by Jake Kaufman, PASSED April 25, 2012, Vote 5-0
(NOTE: Jim and Jory abstained from vote)

- 11. **Treasurers Report (10:40 -- 10 minutes);** Hugh Harrison (Treasurer@Venicenc.org)
[Discussion and possible action] **[EXHIBIT H]**

MOTION: The VNC Board approves the attached report on expenditures for the period April 22, 2012 through May 21, 2012, and the itemized purchase card invoice.

- 12. **VNC Announcements (10:50 --10 Minutes)**
 - **President:** Linda Lucks (president@venicenc.org)
Update on LA City Council Decisions on 2012 Neighborhood Council Elections- **VNC Board elections - Sunday, Oct. 28, Westminster School 10-5.**
 - **Vice President** Marc Saltzberg (Vicepresident@Venicenc.org)
 - **LA Alliance of NC's Representative:** Ivan Spiegel, (parliamentarian@venicenc.org)
 - **Plancheck NC:** VNC Rep Challis Macpherson (Challis.Macpherson@Verizon.net)
 - **LA Dept of Water & Power/Memoranda of Understanding:** VNC Rep DeDe Audet (daudet@ca.rr.com)
 - **LAPD Community Police Advisory Board:** Daffodil Tyminski (Daffodil.Tyminski@Venicenc.org) , Nicolas Hippisley-Coxe, (hippislej@earthlink.net)
 - **Westside Alliance of Neighborhood Councils-** Mike Newhouse, President, Marc Saltzberg , VNC Representatives. Chair@westsidecouncils.org, VicePresident@Venicenc.org,

Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda
[20 minutes, no more than 1 minute per person – no Board member announcements permitted]

- 13. **Board Member Comments on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction**
[11:00 -- 5 minutes, no more than 1 minute per person]
- 14. **Adjourn (approx. 11:05)**

List of Venice Neighborhood Council Committees & Chairs – Volunteers Welcome

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Administrative | Linda Lucks | Santa Monica Airport | Laura Silagi, Amanda Seward |
| Neighborhood | Marc Saltzberg | Visitor Impact | Amanda Seward, Matthew Kline |
| Outreach | Matt Kline | Ocean Front Walk | Ivonne Guzman |
| Budget | Hugh Harrison | Public Safety | Nicolas Hippisley-Coxe, Daffodil Tyminski |
| Land Use and Planning | Jake Kaufman | Education | Cindy Chambers, Karen Wolfe, Bob Yorgason |
| Rules & Elections | Ira Koslow | Environment | Barbara Lonsdale |
| Arts | Cynthia Rogers | 2012 VNC Elections | Elizabeth Wright, Ivan Spiegel |