## Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee Unadopted Minutes Small Lot Subdivision Workshop With Helene Bibas Westminster Elementary School February 1, 2007

1	Challis Macpherson called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. A quorum was
2	established. Ms. Macpherson called the roll—Committee members present:
3	Maury Ruano, Jim Murez, Lainie Herrera, Jed Pauker, Susan Papadakis,
4	Challis Macpherson, Ruthie Seroussi, and Arnold Springer.
5	1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Susan Papadakis moved to approve the
6	agenda.
7	Minutes for the meetings held on December 4, 2006 and December 6, 2006
8	will be reviewed at January 24, 2007 meeting
9	2. ANNOUNCEMENTS
10	3. LUPC CHAIR REPORTS
11	(Taken out of order) Challis Macpherson listed current Venice area hearings,
12	Projects of 3 units or more, and you have to have 1000 sq. ft. on the ground floor
13	Now, three units or more, once you subdivide the lot into three lots, you don't
14	have three units or more any more. You have one lot and then you apply the
15	standards. So the beach impact parking zone will not apply to individual lots
16	that will result from a small lot subdivision action. Now you will have
17	individual lots that will have to comply with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific
18	Plan regulations. Is this clear?

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20 Answering Ruthie Seroussi, Ms. Bibas said "The affordable housing 21 requirements of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan are extremely detailed. 22 They have to do with only replacement housing and inclusionary housing. 23 Replacement housing means that you have to have a pre-existing affordable unit 24 that you intend to demolish in order so that unit will have to be replaced. That 25 will trigger a process under which we have to examine that you meet that 26 regulation. So that does not preclude it." 27 28 Inaudible stakeholder question, to which Challis Macpherson discussed the 29 Committee's processes. 30 31 Helene Bibas stated: "Also, I did not say in my introduction, I would like to 32 specify that I am also new at it and I may not have all the answers, so please be 33 patient. I can commit, however, to get back to you with some answers that I may 34 not have today." 35 36 Jim Murez stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan is not clear that it is 37 necessary to replace an existing affordable house, and that an additional unit is 38 required to be affordable. Mr. Murez discussed an issue that was debated at a 39 recent LUPC meeting.

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Helene Bibas: "No. Let's read it. Typically, you are limited to two units per lots and then there are also provisions of a certain lot size for a replacement, affordable unit. Go back to page 5, which is the definition section that explains what a replacement affordable unit is. In plain English, it's really an existing affordable unit that exists. You cannot just do it. It's been difficult, we've been struggling with that issue, because we do have at the City a goal to improve the stock of affordable units, and we are seeing less and less of it. But the fact is that the way this is written and it's been adopted and we went through a very extensive public participation process to arrive at this consensus. So you cannot add an affordable unit unless you do it by exception if that affordable unit was not a pre-existing one. Is this clear? No, it's still not clear? Okay, you start with a lot, you have a typical lot that's RD1.5 so that's 15 for each, let's say 5000 square feet lot with three units on it, one of which is affordable. If these were market rates, forget the small lot subdivision for now, you would be permitted to build only two new market rate units without requiring an exception. Let me continue illustrating this. If you have a situation where you have two market rate units and one existing affordable unit, there is a whole process to define what it is and how much

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60 people pay and so forth. That unit would have to be replaced on the site. Now 61 the many ways with the Mello Act compliance that a lot of people get out of 62 unfortunately and we are working very hard to have an in lieu fee ordinance 63 adopted by the City Council but we are not there yet. So that's basically how it 64 works. And then there are very special situations." 65 Jim Murez detailed the earlier case: a single family existing on a RD1.5 lot on 66 67 which the developer proposed to build three units. Mr. Murez asked if the third 68 unit had to be affordable. Helene Bibas said, "No. The answer is no." Challis 69 Macpherson stated that the proposed development was in an area of Millwood 70 that was zoned to allow only two units on the lot, and if there were an extra 1500 71 feet the only other unit had to be affordable. 72 73 Helene Bibas said, "No, it has to be a replacement affordable unit. That's the 74 whole difference. It's a replacement. Again, the emphasis is on the 75 replacement." Challis Macpherson asked if three market rate units could be built 76 on the lot. Ms. Bibas replied that the developer could apply through a Venice 77 Coastal Zone Specific Plan exception process or decide to subdivide the lot. Each 78 lot cannot be less than 1500 square feet. These are the constraints.

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Arnold Springer stated that the revision of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan made it more difficult to apply what was intended, especially in Oakwood. Mr. Springer stated that stakeholders' intent was subverted. Helene Bibas stated that a lot of what is in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan today was taken out of the interim control ordinance that was in effect probably 10 or 15 years, which is very unusual for an interim regulation. Ms. Bibas stated that the intent was not to bypass the density limitation of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. If today you have a 3000 square foot lot the most you can do there is again two units, whether you build two condos, two detached houses or subdivide the lot so you have two structures, but they have individual foundations and things like that, I don't see how that increases density. It actually helps carry out the goals of the Land Use Plan initially. The whole thing that was driving the regulations of the Land Use Plan and the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan was to preserve the character of the small houses, single family and bungalow type. So the smaller subdivisions actually help that, instead of having mega two-unit complexes, you can have two individual houses on smaller lots. So it's back to the beach type of housing.

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Ruthie Seroussi stated that the City Attorney's opinion is warranted regarding the language concerning the replacement affordable unit and asked if Helene

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100 Bibas would contact the City Attorney or if VNC should do it. Ms. Bibas stated she would forward the suggestion to the appropriate people, however, the intent 102 was clear, the interpretation was implemented that way for six years, and that 103 management can issue a letter of clarification to that effect. Jim Murez remarked 104 that Ms. Seroussi referred to the Oakwood section for housing density, on page 105 18 that calls out a reference to the replacement affordable housing definition. 106 Lainie Herrera referred to a project that requested an exception to allow three 107 market rate units, and referred to the way it was used in the Millwood section. 108 Ms. Bibas asked for examples, and noted that she had not encountered this 109 situation in her tenure. Ms. Bibas noted that exceptions are not always granted. 110 Lainie Herrera asked why an exception to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan was needed if the unit has to be affordable. Ms. Bibas stated that the assumption 112 was incorrect, that a third unit would not be allowed by right that is not an 113 affordable unit. Ms. Bibas agreed that only two units are allowed on these lots, 114 provided that an affordable housing unit does not exist. Ms. Bibas reiterated that 115 only the replacement of an existing affordable housing unit that is demolished to 116 develop the project is appropriate. "You start with a lot that may have only one 117 affordable unit. The density will allow, according to the Venice Coastal Zone 118 Specific Plan, two units, assuming that the whole lot is at least 4500 square feet. 119 You could demolish that existing affordable unit. That has to be analyzed to see

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if it is really an affordable unit... If it is determined that the unit qualifies as an affordable unit, it needs to be replaced. Then you can develop two more units, market rate units, including and add the third unit if you have the appropriate density to do that. There is no other way to do three units by right. Inaudible question If you have absolutely no existing affordable unit on the site that you want develop, then your limitation is only two market rate units. You can make those units affordable if you want but your maximum is still two units. Inaudible question You can try, and there will be a public hearing. That's why it's an exception; there are all sorts of variables that come into account, including your input as a NC, the neighbors, Jed Pauker asked if an affordable unit exists, a replacement affordable unit must be included in whatever you build under the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance, so no matter how many units up to a maximum of three you build one has to be

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affordable if you already had an affordable unit. Ms. Bibas said yes, but there are other ways to get out of meeting that requirement, which is the Mello Act compliance. Ms. Bibas referred to material to be circulated regarding the Mello Act, stated that the Mello Act is aimed at preserving affordable housing in the Coastal Zone and stated that people can legally get out of the requirement if they can show that replacing the housing unit on site will not be economically feasible. Mr. Pauker asked how the loophole can be addressed. Ms. Bibas stated that there is no loophole, it is the law. It is legal, proof of financial hardship is sufficient. The furthest progress achieved in correcting the situation so far is to pay in lieu fees instead of providing affordable housing on site. But that regulation is not yet adopted. Susan Papadakis asked what formula was used to determine economic feasibility. Helene Bibas stated she would provide cases that could be reviewed. Helene Bibas agreed with Arnold Springer that the small lot subdivision could be used to replace a burned down home on a 5000 square foot lot zoned RD1.5 with

three units. Ms. Bibas stated that that the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance

allows up to a minimum of 600 square feet of lot area per unit. The intent was to

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159 provide alternatives to condominiums, more housing options, go back to beach 160 house types, etc. 161 162 In answer to Arnold Springer's question, Helene Bibas stated that a developer 163 cannot consolidate two lots and then apply the provisions of the Small Lot 164 Subdivision. 165 166 Jim Murez asked if the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan is considered prior to 167 the application of the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. Helene Bibas stated that 168 the Small Lot Subdivision staff will not approve a project that has something 169 contrary to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and described how the staff 170 reviews a development project. 171 172 Maury Ruano ... asked for clarification of the use of lots in parcels, using an 173 example of two lots that are joined by use where the Small Lot Subdivision is 174 used to create three parcels; the property is 4500 square feet and zoned RD1.5. 175 Helene Bibas asked if the existing structure is being kept across lot lines; Maury 176 Ruano stated that the existing lot will be demolished and asked if the affordable 177 housing unit requirement is needed. Ms. Bibas stated that the lot could be 178 subdivided, but noted that the process is not a simple one.

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Jed Pauker asked about the consolidation of two lots that has one large existing house on 6000 square feet and how the Small Lot Subdivision applies to this. Helene Bibas asked if the parcel is now legally one lot of 6000 square feet, and stated that the lot could be subdivided under RD1.5 into 4 lots of 1500 square feet.

Answering Ruthie Seroussi's question regarding what determines a consolidated lot; Helene Bibas stated there has to be an action through the parcel map or subdivision to tie the lots legally together. Ms. Bibas stated that she would provide information later on limitations with regard to time limits on consolidation. Ms. Bibas stated that only an existing lot can be subdivided.

Robert Aronson asked if the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan requirement for an affordable unit is irrelevant when the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance is used to develop a 5000 square foot, zoned RD1.5 to split the lot into three lots.

Ms. Bibas stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan is relevant in that it requires a minimum lot size per unit that is much more than what the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance allows. Helene Bibas stated unequivocally that the

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198 existing affordable housing must exist in order to require a replacement 199 affordable housing unit. 200 201 Ruthie Seroussi referred to Section 4.b, page 2 of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific 202 Plan; Helene Bibas agreed, noting that the new lots being created with the Small 203 Lot Subdivision are subject to the requirements of the Venice Coastal Zone 204 Specific Plan. 205 206 **Public Comment** 207 208 Javier Carbo asked how many lots can be subdivided from a 6500 square foot lot. 209 Helene Bibas stated that each lot cannot be less than 1500 square feet and each lot 210 cannot be further subdivided. 211 212 Inaudible question. Helene Bibas stated that she would e-mail material to the 213 questioner and advised that a meeting with a Venice Planner is the first thing, 214 and listed issues that should be addressed, such as access. 215 216 David Reddy, stakeholder and architect, noted a benefit of the Small Lot 217 Subdivision was fee simple ownership and commented that the Small Lot

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218 Subdivision does not result in higher density. Mr. Reddy recommended that 219 interested developers speak to the Case Management Unit of the Department of 220 Building and Safety. 221 222 Ian McIlvaine stated that there would be a rise in density once property owners 223 become aware of the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. Ian also asked about the 224 zero side yard setback requirements. 225 226 Helene Bibas stated that an earlier example used, of a 6500 square foot, is 227 atypical. Ms. Bibas stated that the City of Los Angeles is obligated to address the 228 need for housing and has considered a number of avenues. Ms. Bibas opined 229 that the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance has been successful, resulting in 230 quality small projects that have added to the communities in which they were 231 built. 232 233 Answering Arnold Springer's request for clarification, Helene Bibas reiterated 234 that the owner of 6500 square foot lot could apply for a Small Lot Subdivision; 235 Ms. Bibas stated that approval of a subdivision is not automatic. Mr. Springer 236 stated that a clear formula should be used by LUPC to review projects. Ms. 237 Bibas stated that LUPC does not issue building permits, but should voice

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support of design, density, participate in public hearing and voice concerns in a cohesive fashion. Ms. Bibas stated that LUPC can have an opinion on compliance of a specific project to existing regulations. Mr. Springer stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan has specific provisions in RD1.5 zoned areas. Ms. Bibas stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan does not have a side yard requirement, except for projects in the lagoon and referred to Section A, page 12. Ms. Bibas stated that typically projects with less than three feet are not granted.

Guest Parking and the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance

Helene Bibas stated that in general the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan requirements with regard to parking supersede any other regulation unless they are stricter. Jim Murez asked, in the case of a two-unit project on one lot, the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan provides for one guest parking space. Ms. Bibas stated that the requirement varies according to the lot width. Mr. Murez stated that a single family dwelling has no guest parking requirement, so if the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance is applied and produces two single family dwellings and asked if the requirement for guest parking has effectively been removed. Ms. Bibas referred to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, Section D,

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page 26 and noted that a detailed list of parking requirements for single family dwellings is provided. If the single family sits on a site that is less than 40 feet wide with no alley, either two spaces or three spaces is required depending on the lot width. After further debate and review of the provisions of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, Ms. Bibas stated that the Small Lot Subdivision review process could require the provision of additional parking spaces and could impose additional requirements. Ms. Bibas stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan only deals with parking in relation to the lot size and that what is written is a relationship between parking requirements, density and lot size. Ms. Bibas stated that the advisory agency will review a large project in a congested area and will demand provision of guest parking. Lainie Herrera reiterated that the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance is applied first to create numerous lots and then the provisions of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan applied. Maury Ruano stated that each lot is a legal parcel and that one unit on a parcel is considered a single family home and not multiple units. Robert Aronson used the example of a 4500 square foot lot to which the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance could be applied and asked for confirmation that the

provisions of the Beach Impact Zone Parking are not applicable. Ms. Bibas stated

that of all the multiple dwelling projects she has seen as a Venice Planner, she

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has seen very Beach Impact parking for residential projects, noting that the 1000 square feet of floor area for the ground floor requirement and at least three units in one building. Ms. Bibas said that she would not echo Mr. Aronson's statement that the Beach Impact Parking zone is in the trash, but all #3 says is that you cannot have a fraction of a space, whether the other conditions apply or not, the end result cannot be less than one space. Ms. Bibas agreed with Mr. Aronson's contention that the Beach Impact Parking zone does not apply in the case of a Small Lot Subdivision; Ms. Bibas clarified that she has seen very, very few Beach Impact Parking zone but has seen fees paid but not parking spaces supplied. Ms. Bibas discussed the process by which in lieu fees are requested to be paid. Mr. Aronson asked if the City would support the Neighborhood Council's strong statement regarding compliance with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan regarding provision of parking, rather than pay in lieu fees. Ms. Bibas referred to the relief clause that has to be offered to citizens, to preserve property rights, etc. Mr. Aronson referred to the exercise of discretion. Ms. Bibas cited examples of the Planning Commission's agreement with the position of a Neighborhood Council.

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Jed Pauker stated that a guarantee of compliance with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan seems to be what the LUPC is seeking. Mr. Pauker discussed the Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee Unadopted Minutes Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting February 1, 2007 Page 16 of 47

developers that are requesting exceptions and asked how to address the fact that the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance doesn't appear to protect the people that can't protect themselves. Helene Bibas invited the LUPC to review the cases that the Planning Department has approved, to see what the commonality is. Ms. Bibas stated that each case is different and presents different challenges. There was discussion about reasonable profit generated by a project.

Susan Papadakis referred to a previous request from a developer that LUPC approved and asked how the local environment or context is considered by the City in instances where there is a commercial or other zone and the streetscape is being changed by subdivision of a lot. Ms. Bibas stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan is clear that curb cuts have to be minimized and that all potential developers are advised to come to the LUPC. Ms. Papadakis stated that she had been told that only Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan exceptions are referred to LUPC and asked if that included Small Lot Subdivision cases. Ms. Bibas stated that there is no requirement that a developer appear before LUPC and noted the process by which Planning strongly urges developers to present to LUPC.

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Jim Murez asked if the Small Lot Subdivision requires a Coastal Development permit. Helene Bibas stated that anything that is subject to the Subdivision Map act requires a Coastal Development permit. Mr. Murez asked how the Coastal Commission is reacting to the Small Lot Subdivision. Ms. Bibas stated that the Coastal Commission has been concerned, that a lot of discussion occurred, that so far they have been fine with it, and that they have not appealed any small lot project as far as Ms. Bibas knows. Answering Mr. Murez' question, Ms. Bibas stated that the Commission was not sure how the ordinance bifurcated the Coastal regulations and that she thinks that now they think it's fine. Arnold Springer asked would current rear yard and front yard set backs in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan be applied to Small Lot Subdivision. Helene Bibas stated that, except for the canals and lagoon, there are no set back requirements for front or rear yards. Mr. Springer asked if Building and Safety imposes set backs. Ms. Bibas stated that the Small Lot Subdivision can rule on setbacks. Mr. Springer asked if there are setback requirements in walk streets in North Venice and the Millwood section. Ms. Bibas stated that walk streets in the North Venice area must follow the yard regulations of the zoning code and never be less than five feet plus they can use the public right of way, regardless of the

Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. Ms. Bibas stated that she had not seen a Small

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337 Lot Subdivision project on a walk street. Ms. Bibas suggested the LUPC 338 formulate a policy. Mr. Springer asked about averaging of front yards and asked 339 if that practice will continue or abandoned under small lot subdivision. Ms. 340 Bibas stated that the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance does allow the advisory 341 agency to grant reductions in yards. 342 343 Phil Raider asked if the Planning Department will still require alley access 344 parking with a small lot subdivision. Helene Bibas stated that the Planning 345 Department tries as much as possible to limit vehicular access to the alley from 346 both lots. Mr. Raider asked about the Planning Department's rationale for 347 granting exemption from Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan requirements, that 348 an exemption should not be granted because of an individual's hardship and 349 used the example of a curb cut granted that shifts hardship from the individual 350 to the community. Ms. Bibas stated that this is best argument that could be 351 brought to the Planning Department or Hearing Officer when a public hearing is 352 being conducted. Ms. Bibas advised that the cost to the community has to be 353 made clear, substantiated evidence should be provided, and alternative scenarios 354 should be presented by the public. Ms. Bibas stated that exceptions are not 355 automatically granted and outlined the process. Ms. Bibas encouraged 356 participation in the public input process, and noted that most Planning

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Commissions side with the community. Ms. Bibas encouraged all to assist in improving the system.

Challis Macpherson asked if there are specific questions regarding floor area ratio vis-à-vis the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. Arnold Springer asked if an RD1.5 30 by 90 lot has an floor area ratio (FAR) and if the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance has an FAR. Helene Bibas stated that there is no FAR for a RD1.5 and the maximum that can be built for a Small Lot Subdivision is constrained by the height limitation. The Small Lot Subdivision will respect the height imposed by the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan.

Jim Murez referred to the inclusion of half of the alley width in calculation of the FAR; Helene Bibas stated that half the alley width is used to calculate the number of allowable units to be built on a lot. Mr. Murez asked which of the two lots in a subdivision ends up with the alley width. Ms. Bibas stated that the calculation is done, that before the subdivision takes place, the alley square footage is included and then the 1500 square foot lot is obtained. Ms. Bibas promised to provide the calculation. Answering Susan Papadakis' question, Ms. Bibas noted that the inclusion of the alley width is provided for in the Los Angeles City Zoning Code.

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Jed Pauker asked about comparing the maximum FAR in a standard size lot of the SOS to that provided for in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Helene Bibas stated that she could not answer that at this point and did not know if it would give anything more to judge. Ms. Bibas referred to height limitation, "so you cannot utilize the maximum that the Zoning Code allows you to have." There are limitations on the size of the house that you end up have. The maximum size of the house is limited by the height and the yard. Challis Macpherson asked if there were any other questions regarding setbacks. Jed Pauker stated that since the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan does not refer to setbacks, they will be "inherited" from the Municipal Code and then the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance will set up its own. Helene Bibas agreed that the Advisory Agency will grant yard reductions on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Pauker

asked if there was a hard and fast rule that was used to determine yard size. Ms. Bibas agreed, but referred to the three foot side yard setback. Lainie Herrera referred to a document from Emily Gable, Planning that referred to a three foot side yard setback; Maury Ruano read the text of the reference. Ms. Bibas agreed

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that this policy is appropriate.

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Jim Murez, referring to lot consolidations, discussed the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan's provision to tie three lots together with provisions that include subterranean parking and asked what adverse effects come in to play. Helene Bibas stated that a larger scale project is limited by design standards that aim to make the larger scale project appear less large. Mr. Murez asked if it is possible to apply the small lot subdivision to three lots; Ms. Bibas clarified that she does not know that this can be done.

Arnold Springer asked about the three foot side yard and asked if it is possible to get similar statements from Emily Gable regarding front yard and rear yard setbacks. Helene Bibas stated that Emily Gable has been replaced by Michael Young. Ms. Bibas stated that the current Zoning Code requires a minimum of five feet side yards for a typical 50 feet wide lot and then it allows reduction of the side yard 10% for non conforming lots with a minimum of three or three and one half feet. Ms. Bibas stated that this is enabling legislation that is meant to help people create a different type of development from typical single family homes. Ms. Bibas stated that the site's physical limitations determine the type of project to be developed.

**Public Comment** 

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417 418 Eric ... stakeholder, stated that there may be cases where the Small Lot 419 Subdivision ordinance either places higher parking requirements or discourages 420 the subdivision. Helene Bibas concurred. 421 422 Nanette Dollinger, a stakeholder, asked why there is a difference between the 423 parcel sizes are different on her street and asked what natural grade meant. 424 Challis Macpherson asked if the stakeholder planned to subdivide; the 425 stakeholder stated no. Ms. Macpherson reminded the stakeholder that the 426 workshop concerned small lot subdivision. Helene Bibas explained that a 427 property covered under the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, the Planning 428 Department looks at the elevation of the center line of the street or walk in front 429 of the house, not natural grade. 430 431 Fences and Walls 432 Helene Bibas quoted a maximum of three and one half feet for walls or fences in 433 434 the front and up to five feet on the side and rear yards but never exceeding six 435 feet and reiterated that all height in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan is

measured from the center line of the adjacent public right of way.

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Challis Macpherson noted that a LUPC meeting took place recently regarding fences and hedges. Phil Raider asked why the Planning Department grants exceptions to a variance regarding fences and requires only that abutting neighbors to be notified, instead of notifying people within 500 feet. Helene Bibas stated that a request would have to be made to review the Code and promised to provide the appropriate Code citation to Mr. Raider.

Jim Murez asked, in a Small Lot Subdivision, within the interior of the lot, does the front yard on one yard become the rear yard fence of the other? Mr. Murez asked what fence requirement exists; Helene Bibas stated that there are no fence requirements with the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. Helene Bibas noted that the Advisory Agency may choose to redefine the Small Lot Subdivision project entirely. There were inaudible questions that Ms. Bibas agreed with, or stated that she did not have answers.

Jed Pauker asked if the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance will affect frontage barriers differently from the Los Angeles Municipal Code and the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Helene Bibas stated that if there is a provision in the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan that speaks to fences if a the Advisory Agency will

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not lower that standard. Mr. Pauker asked if provision for further discussion should be made. Ms. Bibas suggested that staff had not perceived this as an issue, but suggested that the issue be written up and submitted. Ms. Bibas stated that the group articulate any issues in writing to the Planning Department. Susan Papadakis asked about the internal setback requirement and asked Helene Bibas for advice regarding how much information an applicant should provide for a prospective project. Ms. Bibas stated her preference to have as much information as possible. Ms. Bibas stated that there was no internal setback requirement, but was up to the discretion of the developer. Robert Aronson asked if it is possible for a developer to present a request for a subdivision without providing any other information. Helene Bibas stated that legally they can, but in Venice they don't accept applications without seeing the whole project. Mr. Aronson asked the same question Susan Papadakis just asked regarding the amount of information to be provided by a developer. Ms. Bibas reiterated her earlier answer. Mr. Aronson asked about Ms. Bibas' position with the Planning Department; Ms. Bibas stated that she had been reassigned.

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Maury Ruano stated that the strategy of subdividing a property into a parcel or a tract and then units after that is an expensive strategy and that a developer would not do that; it would be done as one process. Maury Ruano stated that developing a property under the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance takes longer, and that some developers choose to build condominiums because of this. Jim Murez thanked Helene Bibas for appearing. including 812 Main Street and 650 East Indiana. a. VNC Board action on LUPC recommendations Challis Macpherson provided copies of a report (Attachment 1) that noted VNC Board actions on proposed development project at 600-604 Venice Boulevard, which was passed by the Board, 636 East Venice Boulevard, which was passed by the Board, and 1009 South Abbott Kinney Boulevard, which was approved with amended conditions. Ms. Macpherson noted a PLUM hearing for the Amuse Café on January 16, 2007; the matter will be considered by the Los Angeles City Council. Ms.

Macpherson noted that the LUPC recommendation approved on

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496		December 7, 2005 for this project was ignored. Regarding the Pali Hotel,
497		812 Main Street, Ms. Macpherson reported that the developer will be
498		heard by LUPC on February 4, 2007 and by the VNC Board on February
499		24, 2007. A request by The Other Room for increased seating was denied.
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501		
502	b.	Mello Act densities and height bonuses. Venice Town Council vs. City of
503		Los Angeles regarding the Mello Act filed in 1993, and the current
504		settlement debate.
505		
506		Challis Macpherson gave background information on this matter and
507		noted current action being taken, reporting that a resulting feasibility
508		study is being negotiated. Ms. Macpherson provided contact information.
509		
509 510	c.	Neighborhood Councils/Planning Department Pilot Program.
	C.	Neighborhood Councils/Planning Department Pilot Program.
510	c.	Neighborhood Councils/Planning Department Pilot Program.  Challis Macpherson reported on progress achieved regarding a
510 511	c.	

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515 Macpherson stated that a pilot program outlined in her report is being 516 rolled out soon. 517 518 519 520 5. LUPC TASK FORCE REPORTS 521 a. Agenda Building 522 523 524 Maury Ruano Ruano stated that there no update available at this time. 525 b. Policies and Procedures 526 527 Challis Macpherson noted the following items proposed for LUPC review 528 529 by February 2, 2007: 530 531 1. LUPC Letter of Introduction, crafted by Jed Pauker 12/6/06 at the request of LUPC, for inclusion with permit application. Copies 532 533 distributed. 2. Rule that LUPC may consider and advise on a development project, 534

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535		but not recommend it to the VNC Board of Officers for action unless
536		the project has filed for a Permit and has a Case Number with the LA
537		City Department of Planning.
538		3. LUPC Staff Report Form, crafted by Susan Papadakis, draft form
539		distributed.
540		4. Specific language to direct staff, for a particular project, to follow-up
541		on LUPC recommendations to the VNC Board and that board's
542		completion of their proposed action.
543		5. Language encouraging "Green" or LEEDS Silver or Gold certification.
544		6. Language regarding perpetuity mandated on affordable units.
545		7. Community Impact Statements
546		8. LUPC Report to VNC Form
547		
548	c.	Parking
549		
550		(Taken out of order) Robert Aronson reported on Parking Task Force
551		efforts to date, beginning with Abbot Kinney. Mr. Aronson stated that a
552		written report will be presented at the next LUPC meeting.
553		
554	d.	Review of Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan

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555			
556		Tabled	
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558	$\epsilon$	. Commercial Construction Moratorium	
559		Tabled	
560			
561	f	Web Page	
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563		Jim Murez suggested Information Management was a better title	for this
564		proposed task force.	
565	٤	. Fences and Hedges	
566			
567		Challis Macpherson stated that this item will be discussed in mor	e detail
568		on January 24, 2007.	
569			
570	ł	. Billboards	
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572		Challis Macpherson reported that this item	
573			
574	6. I	UBLIC COMMENT	

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575 576 Patricia Greenfield, Venice stakeholder, discussed a proposed measure to 577 prevent demolition prior to a replacement project being approved. Ms. 578 Greenfield suggested that LUPC request support from Councilman Bill 579 Rosendahl for approval by the Los Angeles City Council of the demolition 580 prohibition. 581 582 Joccoma Maultsby reported a Board of Public Works hearing on January 17, 583 2007 and asked for a Venice Neighborhood Council letter of support 584 regarding a developer's variance request to station two (2) dumpsters on 585 Speedway. Susan Papadakis drew Mr. Maultsby's attention to a recent 586 Venice Neighborhood Council-approved motion regarding private property 587 on public streets. 588 589 7. CONSENT CALENDAR 590

There were no Consent Calendar items.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

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Case Number APCW 2002-7626 CDP SPP SPR MEL

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(Taken out of order) Elizabeth Wright, stakeholder, stated her belief that conditions imposed on this project regarding access and parking are not being kept by the developer. Ms. Wright stated that the Los Angeles City Planning's interpretation of the conditions is at odds with what was agreedupon in the VNC approval process. Ms. Wright requested that a meeting to resolve the issue be set with the Los Angeles City Planning Department, Building and Safety, the Council office, the developer and stakeholders from the involved community. Answering Robert Aronson's question, Ms. Wright stated that the ruling that "They may use the public street in front of their property for construction access and would include parking and staging of equipment and construction personnel vehicle parking" was made by Jon Foreman. There was discussion about the appropriate VNC forum for acting on the issue. DeDe Audet provided a hand-out to LUPC members, noted that the subject of guidelines for writing conditions be discussed with the Planning Department has been brought up at every Planning MOU meeting. Ms. Audet suggested that a resolution by LUPC be formed to ask the Planning Dept when and where a task force will assemble to address the problems of

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615 writing and enforcing conditions attached to building permits. Jim Murez 616 stated that enforcement of conditions imposed is the purview of Building and 617 Safety, and asked what research had been done. Challis Macpherson called 618 for volunteers to form a task force to research the issue. Susan Papadakis 619 suggested an ad hoc committee to research the issue. 620 621 Arnold Springer moved to urge representatives of the inspection arm of 622 Building and Safety and the Planning Department to discuss the enforcement 623 of Condition #23; seconded by Susan Papadakis. 624 625 Robert Aronson suggested that DeDe Audet and Elizabeth Write draft a 626 letter. Lainie Herrera Herrera suggested that the Planning Department is the 627 appropriate point to begin research about how the current situation occurred. 628 Joccoma Maultsby suggested including Public Works and Street Services in 629 the discussion. 630 631 VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed. 632 633 9. DELIBERATION OF FOLLOWING PROJECTS/ISSUES 634

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a. 650 Indiana Street, Case #APCDW-2006-6684 SPE SPP CDP MEL.

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Ron Cargill introduced himself and Jeff Talbert, representing Venecia Development, and discussed the development project, which is to build 3condominium units on an existing single family lot. Mr. Cargill noted that the project is compliant with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, except for the requirement to provide an affordable unit as one of the three units. The request to be absolved from the need to require an affordable unit was predicated on the fact that no housing stock would be removed from the community. Mr. Cargill noted changes made to the project following input received from the community at an earlier LUPC meeting. Mr. Cargill discussed the project in detail, noting plans for landscaping and green elements. Mr. Cargill stated that what is being requested for the project is a parcel map approval for the condominiums, an exception to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan with regard to the affordable unit and the project permit determination. Challis Macpherson noted ex parte communication with Mr. Cargill.

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Nicholas Mele, a stakeholder, stated that insufficient outreach efforts have been made regarding the subject project, noted that parking provision is Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee Unadopted Minutes Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting February 1, 2007 Page 34 of 47

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insufficient and stated that the project is not compliant with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan.

Todd Darling's statement was read (Attachment 2)

Discussion ranged from the project's height and setbacks, a history of development in Venice, the developer's attempt to provide compliance regarding parking, height and setback but noted the need for an affordable unit. Challis Macpherson reported that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan was quoted in the Agenda in order to add clarity for stakeholders, and stated that no exception should be granted. Jed Pauker asked how three units (where two are called for) would benefit the community and stated that the request was unreasonable. Mr. Cargill rebutted that no affordable housing was being taken away from the community. Jim Murez thanked the developer for taking input from the community to redesign the project and proposed an alternative. Maury Ruano agreed that the developer should not have to provide affordable housing and summarized the circumstances if the project were a small lot subdivision. Jim Murez asked if the developer had surveyed the surrounding area, to determine if multi-unit buildings exist. Mr. Springer Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee Unadopted Minutes Land Use and Planning Committee Meeting February 1, 2007 Page 35 of 47

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stated that existing multi-unit properties are not relevant. Ruthie Seroussi 675 676 asked about outreach and notice to the community. Mr. Cargill described 677 outreach efforts made prior to the October 2006 LUPC meeting and 678 remarked that insufficient advance notice of the current LUPC meeting 679 was provided for outreach. 680 681 Collette Bailey, stakeholder, 748 Indiana, stated that the lot size 682 incorporates the alley, emphasized the provisions of the Venice Coastal 683 Zone Specific Plan, and spoke against a third market rate unit. Ron 684 Cargill reported that calculation of the lot size was made per provisions of 685 Los Angeles City Building Code. Jeffrey Talbert stated that financial 686 concerns were at issue. Mr. Cargill noted that the issue of gentrification 687 would arise should two units be built. In rebuttal to Jed Pauker's 688 question, Jeffrey Talbert referred to parking provision for two units as 689 opposed to three and resultant traffic impact. 690 691 Jim Murez moved to approve the project as presented, stating that one of the 692 three units be recognized as an affordable unit as specified by the Venice 693 Coastal Zone Specific Plan; seconded by Robert Aronson.

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695	In answer to Challis Macpherson's question, Jim Murez stated that the
696	level of affordability should be defined by the Venice Coastal Zone
697	Specific Plan. Lainie Herrera Herrera asked for clarification of the issue
698	being discussed. Ruthie Seroussi stated that approval of the project
699	should be predicated on the third unit being covenanted as affordable unit
700	in perpetuity. Arnold Springer commented about cooperation with
701	developers to the detriment of the community's will. Jim Murez stated
702	that Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan provides for a 30 year covenant
703	regarding affordability.
704	
705	VOTE: Robert Aronson—yes, Lainie Herrera Herrera—no, Jim Murez—yes;
705 706	VOTE: Robert Aronson—yes, Lainie Herrera Herrera—no, Jim Murez—yes; Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie
706	Susan Papadakis – yes; Jed Pauker – no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie
706 707	Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie Seroussi—no, Arnold Springer—no; Challis Macpherson—no. The motion
<ul><li>706</li><li>707</li><li>708</li></ul>	Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie Seroussi—no, Arnold Springer—no; Challis Macpherson—no. The motion
<ul><li>706</li><li>707</li><li>708</li><li>709</li></ul>	Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie Seroussi—no, Arnold Springer—no; Challis Macpherson—no. The motion did not pass.
<ul><li>706</li><li>707</li><li>708</li><li>709</li><li>710</li></ul>	Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie Seroussi—no, Arnold Springer—no; Challis Macpherson—no. The motion did not pass.  Lainie Herrera Herrera moved to deny the requested Venice Coastal Zone
<ul><li>706</li><li>707</li><li>708</li><li>709</li><li>710</li><li>711</li></ul>	Susan Papadakis—yes; Jed Pauker—no, Maury Ruano abstained; Ruthie Seroussi—no, Arnold Springer—no; Challis Macpherson—no. The motion did not pass.  Lainie Herrera Herrera moved to deny the requested Venice Coastal Zone

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Motion withdrawn by Lainie Herrera and Ruthie Seroussi.

Susan Papadakis moved to approve the project as presented, with one of the three units recognized as an affordable unit as specified by the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan, with the condition that the developer brings a statement that he will create an affordable unit to the Venice Neighborhood Council; Jim Murez seconded.

Robert Aronson suggested that the motion be reworded to say "the project as presented with three market rate units is denied and that LUPC gives its endorsement to a project with two market rate units and one affordable unit as shown on the plans prepared by ... architects and presented to LUPC, in conformance with the guidelines of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Susan Papadakis and Jim Murez agreed to the amendment. Arnold Spring seconded.

VOTE: Challis Macpherson—yes, Robert Aronson—yes, Lainie Herrera abstained, Jim Murez—yes, Susan Papadakis—yes, Maury Ruano abstained, Ruthie Seroussi—yes, Arnold Springer—yes. The motion passed.

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Arnold Springer asked what mechanisms exist to enforce developers' agreed-upon conditions. Challis Macpherson noted specific agreements regarding the subject project and referred to favorable conditions within the Los Angeles City Planning Department.

## b. 1136 Abbot Kinney, Case #AAZ2006-4407

Rob Stone summarized the issue at hand, to convert and use existing retail space to a 1111 square foot restaurant, a conditional use permit to allow the sale of beer and wine for on-site consumption, and a zone variance to provide 20 off-site (leased) parking spaces to be services by a valet company, noted a presentation made to LUPC December 6, 2006, provided a copy of a parking lease agreement from Second Community Baptist Church, and presented three options regarding provision of parking. Mr. Stone stated that a parking attendant would be provided, and provided copies of a route plan for valet services. There was discussion about current use of the lot in question, fairness to the applicant, discouraging new business development, use of nearby parking

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754	lots, and individual Committee members' preference for the three options
755	listed.
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757	Carmel Beaumont voiced support for the project but not the request for
758	the zone variance regarding parking. Ms. Beaumont expressed
759	dissatisfaction with current valet parking practices in the area.
760	
761	Marian Crostic presented copies of letters written by stakeholders that
762	oppose the project because of the parking issue; Ms. Crostic referred to
763	possible safety issues that may arise because of traffic generated by the
764	new business.
765	
766	Fred Crostic provided a speaker card in lieu of speaking in opposition to
767	the musicat
	the project.
768	the project.
768 769	Rob Stone stated that his business interests are being ignored, and noted
769	Rob Stone stated that his business interests are being ignored, and noted
769 770	Rob Stone stated that his business interests are being ignored, and noted

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Murez stated that taking away parking currently used by the public will create a more intense use that should be addressed prior to any action on the part of LUPC. Arnold Springer referred to recent presentations made on behalf of restaurants EVO and AXE and stated that approval of such projects should be tied efforts to fully utilize parking at Westminster School. Mr. Springer stated that the onus of action should be on the Abbot Kinney Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Springer suggested that the Parking Task Force should identify what parking is really available and what commitments exist for use of parking space. Mr. Springer went on to identify steps that should be taken. Lainie Herrera described the issues being faced by businesses in the area and voiced support for this development project. Ruthie Seroussi asked to see the parking lease contract.

Maury Ruano moved to approve the project with Parking Option C as presented; seconded by Robert Aronson.

Susan Papadakis suggested an addition be made, that the LUPC support the Coastal Development permit for EVO Restaurant that utilizes remote parking

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793 with an attendant, however, shall not have valet parking. Maury Ruano agreed 794 to the addition; seconded by Robert Aronson. 795 796 There was discussion about use of a validation system, and how the 797 Parking Task Force can oversee the parking situation in this area. 798 799 Ruthie Seroussi noted a valid contract exists between the Church and EVO 800 but remarked that the contract is renewable each year for five years and 801 could be terminated with 30 days notice. After further discussion, Challis 802 Macpherson suggested that conditions be imposed similar to that set for 803 AXE restaurant (see Attachment 1). 804 805 Maury Ruano withdrew his motion; Robert Aronson withdrew his second. 806 807 Ruthie Seroussi moved to approve the project on the condition that EVO 808 Restaurant provide for a parking attendant at the church lot with validated 809 parking, and that to the extent that EVO has to have a contract for parking 810 services and if the contract that they currently have with the church expires for 811 one reason or another, that they have 30 days to obtain a new contract with

another parking service or entity for the same 20 spaces reserved exclusively

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for EVO, with the provision of a parking attendant and conditional that employees of EVO cannot park on streets or in a public space; that this same parking program be submitted to LA City Department of Building and Safety; that applicant must return to VNC Board at a meeting after August 1, 2007 for a review of their parking compliance and if the VNC Board is unsatisfied with the parking program submitted to LA City Department of Building and Safety asking for revocation of EVO's CUB; that VNC request that LA City Department of Building and Safety hold an administrative review of this CUB after the VNC Board review of parking compliance; seconded by Arnold Springer.

Susan Papadakis stated that the comparison between AXE and EVO is unfair to EVO. Arnold Springer stated his preference for EVO providing valet parking. Agreeing with Lainie Herrera Herrera's comment, Challis Macpherson suggested that review should be made in August 2008.

Arnold Springer suggested that parking arrangements in Westminster School should be the first priority. Ruthie Seroussi agreed to amend the date to January 1, 2008.

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amendments.

Jed Pauker suggested tying the date of compliance review to the date of the restaurant's opening. Ruthie Seroussi agreed to amend the motion to read that review will take place 6 months after the restaurant opens. Challis Macpherson restated the issue at hand regarding parking availability. There was discussion to clarify the issue at hand; Rob Stone commented that he has no problem complying with reasonable and fair conditions. Ms. Macpherson suggested postponing further discussion until the situation can be reviewed; Mr. Stone indicated that he would prefer to have a decision rendered at the present meeting. There was dialogue between Robert Aronson and Rob Stone regarding the proposed review process; Mr. Aronson stated that the VNC is an advisory body. Mr. Stone stated that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan does not require EVO to provide 20 parking spaces. Ruthie Seroussi agreed to amend the motion to require compliance with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan with regard to number of parking spaces provided. Ms. Seroussi proposed another amendment: that the CUB being granted to EVO Restaurant will not pass to future tenants of 1136 Abbot Kinney if EVO no longer occupies the premises. Arnold Springer agreed to the

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VOTE: Challis Macpherson—yes, Robert Aronson—yes, Lainie Herrera yes, Jim Murez—no, Susan Papadakis—yes, Jed Pauker abstained, Maury Ruano yes, Ruthie Seroussi—yes, Arnold Springer—no. The motion passed.

## c. 300-305 Venice Way

Maury Ruano recused himself from deliberations. Valerie Sachs presented for the developer, Maury Ruano, provided copies of the project description and details regarding the proposed development, and noted Mr. Ruano's request to develop under new Small Lot subdivision ordinance. Ms. Sachs noted a parcel map is being requested for a subdivision and an adjustment to provide for 3 asymmetrical lots. Ms. Sachs stated that one of the units will be offered for sale. A hand-out provided lists the project's features and benefits. Ms. Sachs stated that the project is currently in a very preliminary stage and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Greg Fitchit, stakeholder, spoke in favor of the project, noted that it is well designed and incorporates staple features, provided a rationale for the

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872 adjustment being requested and noted Maury Ruano's contributions to 873 the community. 874 875 Bruce Birch, stakeholder, asked if a 3 foot side yard setback is allowed and 876 questioned the project's 35 foot height limit. 877 878 Arnold Springer questioned the choice to build 3 units. 879 880 Valerie Sachs stated that the project's 30 to 35 foot height is well within the 881 Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan's limits. With respect to the side yard 882 setback, Maury Ruano stated that the 3 foot side yard setback complies 883 with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Jim Murez rebutted, noting 884 that the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan requires a 5 foot side yard 885 setback. 886 887 Robert Aronson asked for the rationale behind combining two lots to 888 build three units, instead of four. Valerie Sachs stated that the decision 889 was driven by the very small lot size. Ms. Sachs answered a stakeholder's 890 question regarding the project's height, noting that the height limit is 891 within the provision of the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan. Mr.

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Aronson asked if provision of guest parking is required by the City. Discussion of the beach impact zone parking provision ensued. Ms. Sachs reiterated that this presentation is very preliminary and that some issues may be open for interpretation regarding this new small lot subdivision ordinance. There was discussion about the provision of parking spaces, which will be six (6) total spaces for the three units. There was discussion about the differences between small lot subdivision and multi-unit development projects, the appropriate side yard setback requirement and what the developer is required to do with regard to the interpretation of the new Small Lot Subdivision ordinance as it relates to the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and the Venice Coastal Plan. Robert Aronson listed questions that he asked the developer to return for another presentation with answers from the City Planning Department regarding the side yard setback requirement, the provision of an affordable housing unit, beach impact zone parking and guest parking. Arnold Springer voiced concern about setting a precedent regarding small lot subdivision, and raised an issue regarding roof access points. Maury Ruano stated that the roof access points are small and well-designed.

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911	Lainie Herrera moved to postpone review of the project until February 7, 2006,
912	seconded by Jed Pauker.
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914	VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.
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916	10. New Business
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918	None noted
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920	11. Public Comment
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922	None noted
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924	12. Adjournment
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926	The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 10:37 PM.
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