



*Mar Vista Community Council*



## **REMOTE MEETING AGENDA**

**Education, Arts and Culture Committee with the Board of Directors**

**Saturday, September 12th, 2020, 2:30pm**

**PUBLIC WELCOME- ALL ATTENDEES ARE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE**

Remote Conferencing by Device: <https://zoom.us/j/94073269440>

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**Meeting ID: 940 7326 9440**

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**Chair:** Gabriel Hill ([gabriel.hill@marvista.org](mailto:gabriel.hill@marvista.org))

**Vice-Chair:** Pamula Solar ([pamula.solar@marvista.org](mailto:pamula.solar@marvista.org))

**2nd-Vice Chair:** Dana Christensen

([dana.christensen@marvisa.org](mailto:dana.christensen@marvisa.org))

**1. Call to order 2:35pm**

**2. Public Comment for items not on this agenda**

- i. David Lee (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Venice HS, Band Director, & resident of Zone 7: Recently there have been people posing as students, saying they are fundraising. We are not fundraising by going door to door. We are selling chocolates for the band please email [David.w.lee@lausd.net](mailto:David.w.lee@lausd.net) for information. Thank you.
- ii. Paola Cervantes (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - expressed concerns regarding the repairs and condition of the Venice HS pool
- iii. Soni Lloyd (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - UTLA Chapter Chair/expressed concerns regarding the condition of the Venice HS auditorium
- iv. Kristin Duerr (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - expressed frustration over state of Venice HS pool/auditorium/garden during renovation
- v. Iris Jacobs (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - expressed concerns regarding the repairs and condition of the Venice HS pool

B. Public comments is closed 2:50pm

### 3. Reading and approval of minutes

A. Moving the Venice Garden Discussion 5.1 up in the agenda. Approved

### 4. Unfinished Business and General Orders

#### 4.1 Discussion and Planning of Possible Events

- a. Continue discussion and possible action on a Drive In/By or in person events.

### 5. New Business

#### 5.1 Save the Venice Learning Garden/Open Discussion

- a. Discussion and possible action to support.
- b. For more information about the Venice Learning Garden Click or go to these links: <https://www.thelearninggarden.org>
- c. <https://www.veniceparazzi.com/2020/08/24/save-venice-learning-garden/>
- d. 2 minutes for sharing
- e. Q&A and we can draft a community statement to save the garden.
- f. Speaking on behalf on The Venice Learning Garden
  - i. Christy Wilhemli (Stakeholder Status Unknown) - spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden
  - ii. Jennifer Arrington (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to the community
  - iii. Iris Jacobs (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to the students
  - iv. Libby Oren (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Venice HS student, spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to the students/spoke of communication challenges with LAUSD
  - v. Julie Mann (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Cofounder of the Learning Garden/spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to the students/spoke of confusion around LAUSD timeline
  - vi. Brian Bleser (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - the lead teacher of the Academy of Public Service/a graduate of VHS/the alumni association historian/spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to the students/spoke of confusion around LAUSD plans
  - vii. Soni Lloyd (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - UTLA representative/spoke in support of keeping The Venice Learning Garden/expansion of green space as agreement from 2019 strike/spoke of lack of transparency around LAUSD plans
  - viii. Noah Derby (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - student at Venice HS/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to students

- ix. Christopher Wolf (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - the magnet coordinator/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/benefits to students
- x. David King (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - garden master/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/collaboration between community and school
- xi. Jennifer Barnhill (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - a teacher/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/spoke of confusion around LAUSD timeline and plan
- xii. Staci Boggeri (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - a parent and a neighbor of the garden/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/open space during COVID-19
- xiii. David Lee (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of The Learning Garden/learning garden is in a competition for the 2020 therapeutic garden and connected Yo San University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
- xiv. Sara Roos (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - children are alumni of Venice HS/spoke in support The Venice Learning Garden/expressed concern for swimming pool safety risks/shared concern for state of auditorium usability for emergency community meeting space
- xv. Chaka Forman (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- expressed concern from diverting from 2011 resolution passed by LASUD stating any garden actively used for instruction could not be taken down/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/spoke about confusion on LAUSD plan/expressed concern over neglect of auditorium/spoke in support of changing school police building usage
- xvi. Taymy Kiper (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden
- xvii. Kristin Duerr (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - president of PTSA/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden
- xviii. Tyler Proctor (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden
- xix. Jennie Jackson (Mar Vista Stakeholder) -spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/student engagement
- xx. Chloe Cheng (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - student at Venice HS.spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/Expressed interest in LAUSD modernization plan including more green space
- xxi. Johannah Bernstein (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - a community member, who pays property tax, anything to enhance will add to my property value/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/career readiness for students
- xxii. Ashley Zeldin (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- vice chair PLUM, daughter of 40 yr veteran of LAUSD/ Venice HS is in the Venice community plan not in the Mar Vista community plan. Zone one

- is talking about increasing green space/this should be part of the community plan
- xxiii. Paola Cervantes (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - acknowledged all the support/spoke about connection to early child educators/mental health/"thank you for speaking your minds"
  - xxiv. Chaka Forman (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of networks of schools/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/impacting school choice
  - xxv. Kirsten Farrell (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - CTET teacher, runs the sport medicine program/spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden
  - xxvi. Patty Kestin (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/expanding green space
  - xxvii. 3:42pm close comments in support of The Learning Garden
- g. Open Comment for LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - spoke in support of The Venice Learning Garden/highlighted communication issue/highlighted construction is a challenge - there are unfortunate victims, the trees but we had to turn put a sewer line.
- i. Student drain issue: get your teachers to get in contact with me.
  - ii. Ideas for new plans: replicating the Fremont HS greenhouse, wellness center, and community garden.
  - iii. We currently do not have a formal agreement for outside organizations using the garden. We are a public agency, we have rules and guidelines. Any agreement with an organization needs adherence to rules (mandated reporter, finger printed, background checks). We have to have a formal agreement - there are governing laws. All the public needs an opportunity to use this land.
  - iv. There needs to be a request for a proposal process, if an organization uses the facility for more than 30 days at the time. what they bring to the community. A proposal with funding, will be more likely to be chosen. The process would need stakeholders, local superintendent, school curriculum.
    - 1. Offer: Soni Lloyd role as a panelist. We will select the best proposal.
  - v. We have buildings on the site that are unsafe and they need to come down. You will see action on the buildings, they are old and dilapidated. The buildings have never been certified the division of state architects.
- h. Q&A 2 Minutes
- i. Q: Paola Cervantes (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - What actions can we take to improve communication and transparency btw community and LAUSD?

- ii. Q: Tyler Proctor (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - What are the plans for the pool?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We pay based on percentage use by students. Currently, we pay our share 40%. The city needs to come up with their share for repairs.
- iii. Q: Chaka Forman (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - What is the status of the auditorium?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - This is a historic building, it needs approval by the architect. We agreed to a timeline and will go through the state architect. Currently, they are working from home. Normally this can take a year. No specific timeline.
- iv. Q: David Lee (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Mr. Hovatter thank you for showing up. When I read the plan, it stated the auditorium is historically eligible and we are restoring to what it was and not what it should be. Is there a disconnect? I am frustrated and confused. I understand there is a process. I am sure there could be community involvement to make it happen.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - If a building is eligible, it doesn't matter if it's not on the historical register, for the administrative process. Architecturally it needs to look like it looked, but needs modern lighting and AC, and sound system - we are allowed to update those. We cannot change the final appearance. It think - \$5M for structural improvements, there is room to add more. Play on the guilt factor to move up, you've been without for so long. Cash in on the guilt factor.
- v. Q: Libby Oren (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- The area that was taken away from sewer constructions, was promised to be used ASAP. We have an NUA with principle - six months all the progress would be made. If we wait too long the garden will die.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We plan to return the area from the sewer, that is the intent there is more work. We need to add drainage and stormwater runoff to control pollution. the bad part is you cannot get access for space. Let's make space for the new plants, get your sponsor or principle to reach out and we will start working on a space so you can do the planting now. For the green house I was not suggesting we copy the Fremont HS greenhouse, just offering a range of options. I could give the authority to the Learning Garden for 30 days with a facilities use agreement. This would be the sole source contact for someone to maintain the garden. It is not agreement to use, just for providing the service and then have a formal

RFP. If nothing else it is a formalized agreement for insurance. If something happened, the district could not file and it would require money from the general fund to cover any insurance issues.

- vi. Q: Johanna Bernstein (Mar Vista Stakeholder)- Tyler Proctor were you my student at Westchester? Westchester had a great CTE program with woodshop.
- vii. Q: Sara Roos (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Could I ask Hovatter to mitigate the greenhouse and it isn't a million dollar position. Five years ago I secured support and blue prints and finding corporate sponsors. If the community rallies, would LAUSD mitigate the lead?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Currently, it is not certified by the division of state architect because it is not structurally sound. We could spend the money, but more money than to destroy and rebuild.
- viii. Q: Sara Roos (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - This seems like a situation that needs specialized set of professionals?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We have worked with professionals, while we meet the state architect requirements. This building is in terrible shape. It is beyond economic repair.
- ix. Q: Jennie Jackson (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Could we convert water foundation to water filling stations? We are struggling to see who we should talk to see if this is possible in the older buildings too.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - I am passionate about gardens and water fill stations, we will put them in every school. They filter 5 parts per billion. Every new construction project, these are part of them. We are going to do that as part of our project.
- x. Q: Patty Kestin (unknown stakeholder status) - Thank you Mark. When we leave the meeting today in regard to the RFP, it is going to be requesting that horticulture be included for Venice HS students, including, the outdoor space? Could we leave this afternoon with a promise there will be horticulture class and program in the request? And follow through with community needs and events? Who else is on the selection committee?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - It will have community and student component. The winning proposal should value what we do. Will there be buildings? We will leave it open and how organizations propose to us. For the selection committee there will be engineering, and facility from the instructional programs for that area.

- xi. Q: Kristin Duerr (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Thank you Mr. Hovatter. Is it possible for you to have a conversation or a communication liaison, so he gives the principle a report that this is included? This information does not seem to be getting to parents. The other thing it doesn't look like anyone is spending money at Venice HS. The pool is an eyesoar, it is not safe, and it is disgusting. There is not a working auditorium. We pay so much on property tax. Why does it take so long for facilities to address our community. Some of the most important buildings are not addressed.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We are spending over \$130-40M modernizing the campus. We are doing that on 22 of the 600 schools that need to be modernized. Less than half LAUSD. Of the 131 new schools we built a few auditoriums, but mostly multi-purpose rooms because we cannot afford to build more. The swimming pool is owned by the city. We have a meeting that is scheduled with everyone. I will call the principal on Monday and apologize.
- xii. Q: Noah Derby (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - (For the pool) My understanding is that the city has to initiate. Do you have an agenda?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - What changes would be made at the pool? If 40% of the usage is ours - This is totalled at the end of the year and sent to LAUSD. The city awards the contract for the roof. The AC needs to be addressed. I understand and I am ready with the check book to write our share. Contact me: [mark.hovatter@lausd.org](mailto:mark.hovatter@lausd.org), LAUSD Facilities Chief
- xiii. Q: Julie Mann (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - I will be contacting you to have a one on one conversations. In the 6 months for RFP the land will be clay. We are willing to do work on that to keep the planting garden viable.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - (missing notes on response)
- xiv. Q: Jennifer Barnhil (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - Would you be willing to write a letter to community to clear up the confusion?
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - I am working on it.
- xv. Soni Lloyd (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We have school based management, this should be made to a larger body. Such as the timeline for applications received, the make up of the panel, rethinking the partnership with the pool.
  - 1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - The panel will have 3- 5 voting members.

These will represent the principal, facilities staff, and school representation. The panel is supported by technical expert advisory groups, students, and engineers to advise the group. We have not selected yet. I suggest you or someone you think who can represent to join. The public will be involved. We do a pre-proposal meeting to the public and we talk about the plan and get input. Then we have a request for proposals. We gauge for interest. Here we can discuss community engagement. After 2 weeks we send out a request. The criteria will look at lots of stakeholders. For the pool, we pay, they do repairs. There are complications. Less than half LAUSD school have a pool.

xvi. Q: Paola Cervantes (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - It sounds like what happens with the pool is miscommunications. I am curious if we can get a commitment from you to meet with a member of the city. Who is that city member?

1. A: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) - We meet regularly. They've carved out \$1M for the pool. Contact Cathie Santo Domingo in the planning, construction and maintenance department. Estimating \$6M- \$30M for cost.

xvii. Closing: LAUSD Representative: Mark Hovatter (Mar Vista Stakeholder) -Commitments:

1. In 6 months we will have a request for proposal. We will meet with the principal, community of the school, and the local superintendent to figure out what we want. A request for proposal benefits the community and the students. Representatives teaching in school and Soni Lloyd on the selection panel, helping with selection criteria and decision.
2. We agree on repair and completing the design with the division of state architect.
3. Working with the city to repair their pool. We will spend funds as allowed to by our percentage of use.
4. I will share a fact sheet to the community with contacts and will contact the principal on Monday to know he has support.
5. Water fill stations as part of construction.

i. Motion to table the rest of the agenda.

i. Pamula seconds that motion.

j. Open invitation to all attend meetings. We will be back the second Saturday every month.

## **6. Adjournment** (no later than 4:00pm)

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