



**FINAL MINUTES
VENICE BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Via Televideoconference pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 Issued by Governor Gavin Newsom
Friday, September 25, 2020
Meeting Starting Time 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92157787388?pwd=ZTNCclhqW0rUWd1a0p3VHI4b1BWZz09>

Meeting ID: 921 5778 7388 | Meeting Passcode: 475693

Dial-In Number: +1 669 900 9128

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Steve Heumann, Treasurer Connie Brooks, Secretary Jeremy Weinstein, Jack Hoffmann, Jay Goodfader, Jeffery Harris, Mark Sokol

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

VBBID STAFF PRESENT: Eleni Polakoff, Shira Moch, Marcus Lieber (BID accountant), Azucena Vela (Safe Contractor), Grace Davis (Clean Contractor), Paul Williams (Clean Contractor)

1. Call to Order

HEUMANN

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given at the start of the meeting. Public comment was reopened after Item 3b.

3. Government Representative Liaison Reports

Captain Steve Embrich and Senior Lead Officer Monique Contreras with LAPD highlighted the outcome of major investigations in the Venice Beach area, key crime stats (80% increase in aggravated assault, 40% of which is coming from Ocean Front Walk, gun-related crimes are only slightly up from other years, and greatest increase in crime in Pacific Division over last month). The increase in crime is likely due to Los Angeles Municipal Code 63.44. LAPD will begin enforcing/citing again and work with City partners to reduce trash. Captain Embrich also mentioned an ongoing effort with LAHSA to coordinate rotating social service providers at a designated location on the boardwalk in parallel with mobile showers. He also mentioned that drug use is happening in all encampments throughout the City and is difficult to enforce without the ability to have tents taken down during daytime hours. Captain Embrich also mentioned that through working with Council District 11, the 21 camera system was restored and they want to expand camera coverage to the full extent of the boardwalk.

a. Los Angeles City Council, District 11 – Nisa Kove and Dexter O’Connell

Dexter O’Connell introduced himself and is Councilman Bonin’s new deputy for A Bridge Home (ABH) and the special enforcement zone (3rd St., Hampton, and Sunset are the three sections of the enforcement zone). His email is Dexter.O’Connell@lacity.org. Mr.

O'Connell overviewed capacity at ABH (78/100 beds full for adult program and 42-43/49 beds full for young adult program). There were three permanent housing placements last week (two housings and one family unification). The adult program has paused intake, and young adult program has just been able to resume intake. There have been no positive cases of Covid-19 at ABH, so unsure why intake is paused for adult program. He also stated that cleanings resumed three weeks ago with voluntary compliance at special enforcement zone (50% of people were interested in having their area sprayed and disinfected). Mr. O'Connell explained that the City is not doing some of the enforcement right now because of local judicial decisions and CDC guidelines, however LAPD are continuing to enforce violation of drug laws. He also highlighted the arson investigation underway for the encampment fire that occurred 9/24 and that there is reason to believe that a number of the recent cluster of fires are retaliatory.

b. LA County Supervisor, District 3 – Zachary Gaidzik

Zachary Gaidzik summarized the Governor's new tiered approach for reopening which is based on cases per day per 100,000 (must reach below a 7) and positivity rate (must reach below a 5), and maintain this threshold for at least two weeks before moving forward reopening additional businesses. LA County is at a 7.7 and 2.8 respectively. Mr. Gaidzik also stressed the importance of completing the Census which correlates to representation and funding. The Trump administration moved the deadline until the end of September. An injunction and lawsuit was filed to move the date back to the end of October as originally planned. He also mentioned that every registered voter in LA County will automatically receive a mail-in ballot (will be mailed out 10/5). Register before October 17th to still receive a mail-in ballot or register at a voting center (most will be opening October 30th) or vote provisionally for in-person voting. 400 secure drop boxes will be installed after the ballots are mailed out. Mr. Gaidzik also stated that they are planning a "mini connect day" with CD11 which involves bringing one to two service providers to Venice Beach every week in conjunction with the mobile showers to connect people with services. Department of Mental Health is working on a new pilot program to slightly reduce barriers for conservatorship and identify individuals who need treatment.

Item 2 was reopened after Item 3b.

John Okulick expressed that the area is getting worse and is interested in disbanding the BID as he is paying his assessment fee for the BID for nothing. Mr. Okulick also stated that his location is surrounded by homeless and it is unsafe and unsanitary.

4. Consent Items

All matters listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote.

a. Financial Reports

LIEBER

b. Approval of Minutes (6/14/19, 9/20/19, 12/13/19, 8/28/20)

WEINSTEIN

Marcus Lieber presented the financial reports. Mr. Heumann asked if the Board had any changes to the June, September, or December 2019 minutes or to the August 2020 minutes. None were offered. Mr. Sokol moved to approve; Ms. Brooks seconded; the Board approved (7-0).

5. Venice Beach BID Staff Reports

- a. Safe Team Report **VELA**
Azucena Vela gave an update on safety enforcement (notable increase in violent crimes within the BID boundary), compliance, year-to-date safety stats, and strategies for the Safe Team to split the district into three sections for patrols.

- b. Clean Team Report **DAVIS / WILLIAMS**
Grace Davis and Paul Williams gave an update on August Clean stats, positive impacts on bulky item removal, piloting a new moisture repellent product, and increasing focus on graffiti removal.

- c. Executive Director's Report **POLAKOFF**
Eleni Polakoff gave an update on customer service improvements (website updates, new phone system, and online service request form) and new initiatives/pilot programs that promote strategic relationship building.

6. New Business

- a. Change to Venice Beach BID Board Seats **HEUMANN**
Nominations and possible vote to fill Treasurer Board Officer position due to Steve Heumann's appointment as Board President
Ms. Polakoff stated for the record that Jeff Harris was appointed to the Board at the last meeting (August 2020) pending a letter from Mr. Sutter. Ms. Polakoff did receive and save that letter in the BID's files.

Mr. Heumann stated that the vacant treasurer role needs to be filled because he was nominated as acting President. Ms. Polakoff sought interest for the open position with Ms. Brooks, but is open to all nominations made by the Board. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Heumann moved to nominate Connie Brooks to fill the open Treasurer position for the remainder of this term (until December 2020 elections at annual meeting); Mr. Weinstein seconded; the Board approved (7-0).

7. Next Board Meeting – October 30, 2020 **POLAKOFF**


Ms. Polakoff stated that an additional meeting date is being added (October 30, 2020), which then meets the BID's commitment of four meetings per year. The meeting will still be on Zoom as there has been no indication of moving back to in-person meetings. Ms. Polakoff also mentioned that the December meeting will be the annual Board meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.

The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting for changes. Updated agendas and meeting materials are available at 1320 Pacific Ave., Venice, CA 90291, as well as on the website <https://venicebeachbid.com/board-meetings/>

Please take notice: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (Covid-19), and consistent with the Governor's special orders regarding the Brown Act, the Venice Beach BID Board of Directors meeting will be conducted by way of televideoconference. Participants may join via the televideoconference link above or dial-in number. The agenda packet will be made available online to accommodate this change until such time as in-person meetings are able to resume.


Public Input: Public input is taken at the top of the agenda at each meeting. Any public comment on any agenda or non-agenda item is invited at this time. Public comment is limited to two minutes per individual but may be reduced at the Board President's discretion. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board cannot act on matters not agendaized; however, items raised by the public may become a subject for a future Board agenda. Prior to or during the Agenda Item 2 "Public Comment," the public is requested to use Zoom's "raise hand" function  to indicate that they would like to make a public comment. For callers, press *9 to raise hand.

ADA: As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the VB BID does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. To request and receive confirmation of the availability of such services, please contact us as early as possible at 310-396-8243 or admin@venicebeachbid.com

The undersigned certify that these minutes were approved and adopted at the VBPOA Board of Directors meeting on September 25, 2020.



President/Steven M. Heumann



Secretary/Jeremy Weinstein