



**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, December 11, 2020
Meeting Starting Time 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91864074228?pwd=WkUrely3T21CSE9uYnNBdG1HUEx1dz09>

Meeting ID: 918 6407 4228 | Meeting Passcode: 475693

Dial-In Number: +1 669 900 9128

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Steve Heumann, Treasurer Connie Brooks, Jay Goodfader (resigned from Board after Item 6a), Jack Hoffmann, Jeremy Weinstein, Mark Sokol, Jeffery Harris, Jake Matthews (appointed to Board during Item 6a)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

VBBID STAFF PRESENT: Eleni Polakoff, Shira Moch, Marcus Lieber (BID accountant), Jeff Briggs (BID counsel), Azucena Vela (Safe Contractor), Grace Davis (Clean Contractor), Emeline Neau (Clean Contractor) Paul Williams (Clean Contractor) David S. (Clean Contractor), Marielle M. (Safe Contractor)

1. Call to Order

HEUMANN

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was offered to be heard by the Board of Directors.

3. Government Representative Liaison Reports

a. City of Los Angeles, Recreation & Parks – *Bob Davis*

Bob Davis stated that they just did their typical Friday cleanup on the boardwalk this morning (what is legal right now) and that Recreation and Parks (RAP) has always been part of this cleanup. Mr. Davis is working with LAPD to identify high level locations along the boardwalk that have bulky items not acceptable at the beach. He also mentioned that the City's BIID Team (Bulky Item and Illegal Dumping) picks up large items and RAP works with the UHRC (Unified Homeless Response Center) to pick up some of the bulky items following personal item guidelines. The UHRC is a large group of different City agencies and nonprofits housed under the Emergency Management Department set up as a coordinated effort citywide. The UHRC is where 311 requests go. The BIID Team is looking for bulky items (not tents, but large bulky items such as pallets and BBQs) that specifically don't belong in the park. If community members have special requests like fixing or adding a bench, they are amenable and should contact his office.

Mr. Davis stated that the children's play areas and adult fitness area on the beach are now open again, however some amenities need repair. Mr. Davis discussed their extensive restroom maintenance using a routed crew every 3 hours, and their restroom attendant program at the Horizon Ave. and 17th St. restrooms. The crew can address maintenance needs right away instead of shutting stalls down for hours. The Horizon Ave. restroom is 24 hours (since June 2018) which has helped and reduced restroom use in other areas, as most use occurs between 10:00pm and 6:00am.

Mr. Davis shared that there is an encampment growing in the handball court area. He has requested that the area be cleared and cleaned several times, as residents report criminal activity happening there. He has been told to stand down from moving people out of the handball courts because of CDC guidelines, so there is nothing RAP can do until the County allows handball courts to open up again. RAP staff does try to cleanup whatever they can access (needles, urine, defecation). LAHSA was there this morning as well. There is also an encampment growing on the backside of the handball courts which RAP is starting to address. It has a lot of debris and bulky items. Mr. Davis asked for support from city partners to do this. Mr. Davis is advocating for Venice Beach being a different and unique kind of park in Los Angeles and that the facility should be treated as such. Pre-Covid, it is the second most visited park in Los Angeles, only second to Disney.

b. City of Los Angeles, Police Department

Captain Embrich and Mr. Davis are working together to find projects that meet both department's legal restraints - things that are interfering with maintenance of the park and public utilities - in relation to cleaning up around encampments. They are working with the City's BIID Team. Captain Embrich stated that Mr. Davis is coming up with a proposed priority list this week.

Captain Embrich mentioned that Councilman Bonin has put out a reward for information regarding a homicide last week. He also mentioned the violent rape that occurred on OFW last week on a homeless woman by two men, who are now in custody. Captain Embrich said that 60% of violent crime on the beach involves people experiencing homelessness. He is trying to engage the Department of Mental Health to provide support. He has support from the narcotics detail west bureau, as there are a lot of narcotics in Venice Beach and have seized pounds of narcotics, they are trying to close the supply side. Captain Embrich stated that it is hard for officers to see someone they just arrested being released before the officers are even done writing the report. One of the recommendations from the City Attorney's Office is to reduce the number of city attorneys, which is worrisome for LAPD.

Neighborhood Prosecutor, Claudia Martin, shared how the District Attorney's (DA) office handles various reported crimes and how it classifies them as felonies or misdemeanors. Any misdemeanor that comes through the Pacific Division will go through her office, which is separate from the DA's office.

Ms. Martin also discussed the zero bail schedule right now due to Covid. If the bail amount is less than \$50,000, the person has to be released and they have to come back for their court date in about four months.

- c. Los Angeles City Council, District 11 – *Nisa Kove*
Nisa Kove stated that she is working on a phone tree for their departments to be in touch with each other to have virtual conversations amidst the reorganization and personnel shifts at the City and LAHSA. Ms. Kove also mentioned that Council unanimously voted to authorize Project Room Key funds to purchase buildings. In total, they have secured 701 rooms throughout Los Angeles. Priority will be given to moving people out from under freeways, per Judge Carter.

Ms. Kove said they are advocating for park rangers on OFW to have presence and to show that the park is a special area in the City. Park Rangers are able to cite and deal with more nuisance issues.

Ms. Kove provided an update on the OFW bollard project. Installation will take place in mid-February. Boxes will be installed next to the bollards for hydraulic function and Ms. Kove wants to find local artists to beautify the boxes.

Ms. Kove mentioned that when submitting a 311 request for new homeless encampments, it must be entered as a homeless encampment. Existing encampments already have a CARE schedule. This will help the City to schedule the appropriate response.

Dexter O’Connell joined and answered questions from the Board. Mr. O’Connell mentioned that LAHOP is the homeless outreach program. If you see a new encampment, structure, vehicle dweller, existing ones not being serviced or someone who needs outreach services, then put in the request online using LAHOP. He said to forward the email confirmation to himself and Nisa so they can make it a priority. He also stated that ABH occupancy in Venice is 75 but he is trying to get the County Health Department to increase it to 93 (San Pedro and Wilmington’s occupancy). Mr. O’Connell also asked Mr. Davis to share the information about the locations that the BIID Team will be visiting and potential scheduling of the visits, so that he can ask LAHSA to do pre-outreach in those proposed areas to gain voluntary compliance beforehand where possible.

- d. Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 3 – *Zachary Gaidzik*
Mr. Gaidzik was unable to attend.

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
- b. Approval of Minutes (10/30/20)

LIEBER
WEINSTEIN

Marcus Lieber presented the financial reports. Mr. Heumann asked if the Board had any changes to the October 2020 minutes. None was offered. Ms. Brooks moved to approve the Minutes; Mr. Sokol seconded; the motion carried unanimously and the financial reports were acknowledged.

5. Venice Beach BID Staff Reports

- a. Safe Team Report **VELA**

Azucena Vela gave an update on the Safe Team's impact in many areas of the district with compliance and ADA clearance. Ms. Vela also presented the Safe Team's goals for 2021.
- b. Clean Team Report **DAVIS / WILLIAMS**

Grace Davis and Paul Williams gave an update on the Clean Team's goals for 2021 and what was achieved in 2020. Ms. Davis mentioned specific Covid-19 protocols being followed for the teams at the BID station as well as throughout the district. Mr. Williams discussed the success of the new teams that the BID launched (Engagement Team and Graffiti Team), as well as the new hot water pressure washer that was ordered.
- c. Executive Director's Report **POLAKOFF**

Eleni Polakoff gave an update on the BID's clean and safe statistics since beginning operations. Ms. Polakoff also announced the launch of an online survey for the BID's stakeholders and she encouraged everyone to take it. The survey will be sent via email newsletter.

Mr. Huemann introduced the Engagement Team (David and Marielle) and noted that the team is made up of one Clean Team member and one Safe Team member. David stated the success that the Engagement Team has had on the Boardwalk and the relationship he is building with the unhoused community members. Marielle stated that she talks with 15-17 people per day about accessing services, and that four people on the Boardwalk thus far have gotten jobs with Chrysalis after speaking with the Engagement Team.

6. New Business

- a. Venice Beach BID Board of Directors election **HEUMANN**

Election for seats filled by Jeffery Harris (filled on August 28, 2020 after resignations from Matt Moore), Mark Sokol, and Jay Goodfader

Mr. Huemann stated that there was a last minute change to the slate of nominations – Mr. Hoffmann nominated Jake Matthews with The Waterfront and he came forward with his interest to serve on the Board. Ms. Polakoff noted that she received written confirmation from Joanna Stodinger, who is the owner of The Waterfront building, stating that Mr. Matthews can serve on her behalf. Mr. Hoffmann introduced Mr. Matthews, who then introduced himself and his interest in serving on the Board and in the community. Mr. Sokol spoke in support of Mr. Matthews.

Mr. Huemann spoke on behalf of Mr. Goodfader, stating that he will be withdrawing his name and is not interested in seeking re-election. Mr. Sokol and Mr. Hoffmann thanked Mr. Goodfader, who followed with gratitude.

Mr. Huemann is part of the nominating committee and presented the official slate for the three available seats. The official slate is Jeff Harris, Mark Sokol, and Jake Matthews. Mr. Huemann asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. No nominations were offered. Votes were submitted via email by Board members and present

stakeholders. Seven votes were submitted for each nominee. No further action was taken by the Board.

- b. Venice Beach BID Board of Directors Officers election **HEUMANN**

Mr. Huemann announced that he filled the role of Board President when Mr. Sokol stepped down, that Ms. Brooks thus stepped in for Mr. Huemann who was previously Board Treasurer, and that Mr. Weinstein is currently Board Secretary. Mr. Huemann confirmed that all three Board members have indicated they are willing to continue serving in their officer positions. Mr. Sokol moved; Mr. Harris seconded; the Board approved the officer elections unanimously).

- c. Adopt 2021 Annual Planning Report and Budget **POLAKOFF**

Ms. Polakoff presented the 2021 Annual Planning Report and budget. She reported the BID has a surplus that will allow for the completion of the 2021 goals listed in the report, which she then described, and enhancing various systems at the BID. Ms. Polakoff also mentioned that the budget presented takes into account the Board's vote to not raise assessments in 2021. Mr. Lieber added to the presentation on the budget. Mr. Sokol moved; Ms. Brooks seconded; the Board approved the Plan and Budget unanimously

- d. Ratify Ginkgo contract for online stakeholder management system **POLAKOFF**

Ms. Polakoff explained the annual contract and reasons for needing an online stakeholder management system. Ms. Polakoff asked if there were any questions about the contract and there were not. Mr. Sokol moved; Mr. Huemann seconded; the Board ratified the agreement unanimously.

- 7. Next Board Meeting – January 29, 2021** **POLAKOFF**


Ms. Polakoff stated that the next meeting will be on January 29, 2021.

- 8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

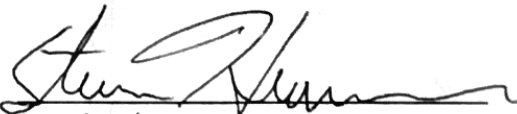
The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting for changes. Updated agendas and meeting materials are available at 1320 Pacific Ave., Venice, CA 90291, as well as on the website <https://venicebeachbid.com/board-meetings/>

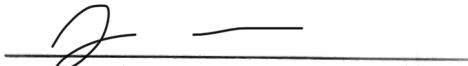
Please take notice: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (Covid-19), and consistent with the Governor's special orders regarding the Brown Act, the Venice Beach BID Board of Directors meeting will be conducted by way of televideoconference. Participants may join via the televideoconference 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 agendized; 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 January 29, 2021.


President/Steven M. Heumann


Secretary/Jeremy Weinstein