



Venice Canals Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, January 27th, 2014, 6:30 P.M.
Location: Marina City Club, Galaxy Ballroom
4333 Admiralty Way, Marina Del Rey

MINUTES

Welcome & Opening Remarks by Renee Kaplan, President.

Councilman Mike Bonin, Council District 11:

Councilman Bonin thanked the VCA for inviting him to his first Annual Meeting. He added that he was pleased to be here and that he knew the Canals well as he has lived in the neighborhood for many years. He expressed his optimism as to the City Council's positive direction and felt it was "on the verge of something new".

He stated that public safety was his number one priority in Venice west of Abbot Kinney. For that purpose, police on bicycles are back on Venice Beach and officers on horseback will be also be patrolling on weekends. As a result, there will be a police presence 22 out of 24 hours in the area.

Transportation is another important issue as well as pedestrian safety, more bus lines and a shuttle transit tram at the airport.

The Council is also working for a local Coastal plan with the Coastal Commission.

Councilman Bonin answered a few questions from the audience and concluded by saying that he has office hours in the community. He will be at the "Cow's End" soon to discuss issues of concern to Venice residents.

Minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting

A motion from the floor to accept the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Membership Meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation of Community Appreciation Awards:

The Community Appreciation Awards were given this year to Frankie and Peter Bergman for their outstanding service to the community by organizing the Neighborhood Watch Program and creating an email communication network regarding security issues on the Canals.

Candidates for the Board of Directors

This year there are six candidates running for six open positions on the Board of Directors. Paul Scibetta and Debra Blocker are retiring from the Board at this time. The candidates are:

Sandy Berens
Mark Galanty
Josie Scibetta
Ben Schick
Claudette Shores
Bob Taub

Election of New Officers:

Each of the six candidates spoke to the membership regarding their desire to be involved on the Board. Renee Kaplan read an email statement from Sandy Berens who was unable to attend. There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the ballot as submitted. The membership voted to approve the election of these six officers.

Treasurer's Report:

CJ Cole presented the Treasurer's Report for 2013. It was a good year thanks, in part, to an increase in donations from filming companies. See attached Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report:

CJ Cole gave the Membership Report. At present, the membership total is 227, an all time high. See Attached Membership Report.

Security

Homeowner, Peter Bergman, suggested that putting an alarm in the garage is a good way to protect one's property as most thefts have been in the garage area. Also, installing a camera facing the bridge is another means to secure the area. The security officer on bicycle is expected

to work from 10AM to 6 PM on weekdays and 10 AM to 5PM on weekends. Peter will follow-up with Security Services regarding the bicycle patrol.

New Website Presentation

James Arnall indicated that there will be upcoming changes to the VCA website. Members will be able to log in at venicecanalsassociation.org with a password to access information including an event calendar with Board meeting information that is not currently available. It will be a “members only” section on our current site. Eventually, the site will allow a member to renew their membership as well.

Voice your comments or concerns

Cecilia Castillo (cecilia.castillo@lacity.org), the Venice Field Deputy for Councilman Bonin, took questions from the floor that she will pass on to Councilman Mike Bonin. She was asked about bicycle traffic violations, foliage blocking street signs, removal of barges from the canals, dock issues, clearance of foliage from walkways and a water main leak on Grand Canal Court. She asked that she receive emails about specific problems.

New Business:

Goals for 2014: The repair and resurfacing of the walkbridges needs to be a VCA priority.

Door Prizes Awarded:

1st Prize: \$50 Gift Certificate to the James Beach Cafe; 2nd Prize: \$40 Gift Certificate to Joni’s; 3rd Prize: \$25 Macchi’s.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

FIRST SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING OF 2014:

Monday, February 3rd, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Host Home: Renee Kaplan, 229 Carroll Canal.

Minutes taken by Claudette Shores, Secretary