

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting- March 6, 2003  
Minutes

**HCNC Board Members Present:** Mary Amason, Kim Benjamin, Giovanni Bizzotto, Alicia Brown, Albert Domasin, Dominc Erhler, Stephen Guerrero, Mamie Hong, Leslie Ito Wong, Jonathan Jerald, Brian Kito, William Kramer, Alan Kumamoto, Joan Lee, Kam Lee, Howard Nishimura, Joan Schutz, Jose Luis Sedano, Al Soo Hoo, Edmund Soo Hoo, Kelly Soo Hoo, Ne Hay Tom, Don Toy, Chien Linda Wang, Charles Woo, Peter Woo, Nancy Yee, Danny Young, Philip Young.

**DONE Staff Present:** Michele S. Cuevas, Thomas Soong, Elizabeth Macias, Greg Nelson

Approximately 24 community stakeholders were present for this meeting.

Parliamentarian Jimmy Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and conducted Board member roll call.

**Agenda Item Number 2: Presentation by Darren R. Martinez, Office of the City Attorney, regarding laws, bylaws, and rules for the operation of the Neighborhood Council**

Mr. Martinez provides a brief overview on the application of operational rules for the Neighborhood Council beginning with all laws, bylaws, standing rules, and Roberts Rules of Order. The bylaws empower the Board to act and are rules created by the Board which can be amended by the Board. The Standing Rules are separate from the Bylaws and provide operating procedures for the group. The purpose is to get Neighborhood Councils to function and the City Attorney and DONE can provide advice. Mr. Martinez clarified that the appropriateness of the HCNC meeting had been questioned and informed the Board that it was okay for the Board to meet.

**Agenda Item Number 3: Review and Approval of Minutes from 1/29/03**

Chair moved to postpone the approval of minutes in order for the Board to provide amendments for incorporation by Board Secretary.

**Agenda Item Number 4: Election of Officers**

Chair opens the nominations for HCNC officers, beginning with the President

President-

Peter Woo is nominated by Jonathan Jerald. Mr. Woo accepts the nomination.

Edmund Soo Hoo is nominated by Joan Lee. Mr. Soo Hoo accepts the nomination.

Mr. Woo states that he has served the community and been involved in Chinatown for the last fifteen years. He is the President of Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, he is a stakeholder in Little Tokyo and Arts District and will look at the Community as a whole. He looks forward to a constructive future that forgets the past. Mr. Woo states that the bylaws need to be reviewed to change what is needed to be representative of the entire community and represent all stakeholders as equal.

Mr. Soo Hoo states that he has no agenda but he does have a vision, a vision that each of the Boards distinct roles will work together to improve the quality of life for all stakeholders. Work as a unit abundance of reasons, get there through open communication and working together. As a youth Mr. Soo Hoo played in Solano Canyon and later worked in Little Tokyo, Victor Heights and Chinatown.

**Vote for President** called by the Chair

17 votes for Peter Woo

12 votes for Edmund Soo Hoo

**Peter Woo is declared President of HCNC.**

Chair calls for nominations for First Vice President.

Edmund Soo Hoo is nominated by Nay He Hay Tom. Mr. Soo Hoo accepts.

Kim Benjamin is nominated by Peter Woo. Mr. Benjamin accepts.

Mr. Soo Hoo congratulates Peter Woo as President and states that he will support him as a concerned person committed to serving the district. He asks for vote and states that he has experience in living and working in these communities.

Mr. Benjamin greets the Board and states that he is interested in community representation. He states that he has interest in Little Tokyo and Chinatown including the Business Improvement District. He shares that he was active in opposing the proposed adult entertainment on Alpine. He states that the job requires focus, outreach, energy, ability to communicate with politicians. He would like to have the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council be a focus for community.

**Vote for First Vice President** called by Chair

15 votes for Kim Benjamin

14 votes for Edmund Soo Hoo

**Kim Benjamin is declared First Vice President of HCNC**

Chair calls for nominations for Second Vice President.

Ne Hay Tom nominates Edmund Soo Hoo. Mr. Soo Hoo accepts.

Danny Young nominates Alicia Brown. Ms. Brown accepts.

Mr. Soo Hoo states that he is clearly committed to HCNC.

Ms. Brown states that she has been very involved in the community and has volunteered in different capacities. She acknowledges that she has a formidable opponent and states that she is qualified for the position.

**Vote for Second Vice President** is called by Chair

15 votes for Ms. Brown

13 votes for Mr. Soo Hoo

**Alicia Brown is declared Second Vice President of HCNC.**

Don Toy: Vote 28 total – was there an abstention? 1 missing.

Chair calls for nominations for Third Vice President.

Jonathan Jerald is nominated by William Kramer. Mr. Jerald declines. (accurate?)  
Edmund Soo Hoo is nominated by Joan Lee. Mr. Soo Hoo declines.  
Jose Luis Sedano is nominated by Kim Benjamin. Mr. Sedano accepts.  
Mamie Hong is nominated by Edmund Soo Hoo. Ms. Hong accepts.  
Dominic Ehrler is nominated by \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. Ehrler declines. (accurate?)

Mr. Sedano states that he owns a business at El Pueblo and is honored to be nominated. He states that he does have agenda, and it is to represent stakeholders of El Pueblo, in line with the overall role of Third Vice President to represent stakeholders. His family has been at El Pueblo for three generations and states he would appreciate a vote of support.

Ms. Hong is honored to be nominated and has resided in Chinatown for many years. Her parents have been very involved and would be honored to get everyone support.

**Vote for Third Vice President** is called by the Chair.

15 votes for Mr. Sedano

12 votes for Ms. Hong

**Jose Luis Sedano is declared Third Vice President.**

Don Toy: 27 Total – should reflect were there abstentions – 2 missing.

Chair calls for nominations of Fourth Vice President.

Joan Lee nominates Mamie Hong. Ms. Hong accepts.

Peter Woo nominates Leslie Ito Wong. Ms. Ito Wong declines.

Peter Woo nominates Albert Domasin. Mr. Domasin accepts.

Ms. Hong states that its important to work together, the group needs harmony. Ms. Hong adds that although she may look young, she has lots of experience. She sits on the Alpine Advisory Board and has a restaurant connection to fulfill the duties of Fourth Vice President.

Mr. Domasin's comments were not recorded.

**Vote for Fourth Vice President** is called by the Chair.

14 votes for Mamie Hong

13 votes for Albert Domasin

Mamie Hong is declared Fourth Vice President.

Don Toy: 27 Total – was there abstentions – should be 29.

Votes for Treasurer is called by the Chair.

Jonathan Jerald nominates Howard Nishimura. Mr. Nishimura accepts.

Philip Young nominates Albert Domasin. Mr. Domasin accepts.

Mr. Nishimura thanks the Board and states that he is a CPA. He says that everyone always wants him to be the Treasurer and he doesn't know why since he can't count. (laughter). States that Little Tokyo must be a represented on the Board and would be glad to serve as Treasurer.

Mr. Domasin states that he is happy to be nominated and would work hard to serve the Board.

**Vote for Treasurer** is called by the Chair.

17 votes for Howard Nishimura  
12 votes for Albert Domasin  
Howard Nishimura is declared Treasurer.  
Don Toy: okay  
Chair calls for nominations for Secretary.

Ne Hay Tom nominates Edmund Soo Hoo. Mr. Soo Hoo accepts. <  
Danny Young nominates Alicia Brown. Ms. Brown accepts. <  
Don Toy: Delete – out of order.  
Charles Woo nominates Alan Kumamoto. Mr. Kumamoto declines. < Don Toy: ? not accurate  
Kim Benjamin nominates Dominic Ehrler. Mr. Ehrler accepts.  
Mamie Hong nominates Kelly Soo Hoo. Mr. Soo Hoo accepts. < Don Toy: Declines OK

Mr. Ehrler states that he has lived in Victor Heights for the past ten years and has done work in the community. He says that he has always done his best.

Mr. Soo Hoo states that he has known Dominic a long time and has reconsidered and therefore withdraws his acceptance as a nominee.

**Votes for Secretary** is called by the Chair.  
29 votes for Mr. Ehrler.

Dominic Ehrler is declared Secretary of the HCNC.

The Chair repeats the results of the Officer Election and comments that the Board will no longer need him to serve as Chair. He mentions that he has indicated his willingness to provide parliamentary training to DONE.

Don Toy: Chair should be Parliamentarian

**Agenda Item Number 5: Establish a Bylaw Committee** with representatives from each of the six HCNC communities.

The Chair accepts public comment.

Donald Jarvis states that he has been involved in the formation committee of the HCNC and would like to volunteer to be on the Bylaws committee.

The Chair request volunteers for the Bylaws committee from the Board. The following Boardmembers volunteer:

- Don Toy, Chinatown
- Jonathan Jerald, Arts District
- Alicia Brown, Solano Canyon
- Leslie Ito Wong, Little Tokyo
- Kelly Soo Hoo, Chinatown
- Kim Benjamin, Little Tokyo, El Pueblo, Chinatown
- Dominic Ehrler, Victor Heights
- Edmund Soo Hoo, Chinatown

Don Toy request clarification on the role of Chair and volunteers.

Don Toy: Don Toy request clarification on the role of the committee, make up, and who can participate. He also

**Agenda Item Number 6: Discussion and Possible Action to form a committee on how to fill Board vacancies**

The Chair opens it up to public comment.

Catherine Vu makes a statement. (Not recorded)

Don Toy: Why were statements not recorded?

George Poon states that the 6 non profit elected representatives must be reinstated.

Don Toy: Mr. Poon referred back to the process as well as to guidelines in how the 6 non-profit were elected.

John Tor states that democracy and representation would call for the elected non profits members to be seated on the HCNC Board (including George Poon and Catherine Vu).

Tony (no last name recorded) states that there is a failed democratic process if the Board cannot do justice to the process and reinstate those who won by majority vote and give them the ability to serve the community. <

Don Toy: adds "and be seated" to end of Tony's remarks.

Michael Kotkin states that the democratic process gives a representative voice to the community and this can only happen by properly reinstating the six candidates.

Don Toy: Michael Kotkin states that the democratic process gives a representative voice to the community and citizens and this can only happen by properly reinstating the six candidates who were elected by an overwhelming majority.

Howard Fink states that he ran for a vacant position in El Pueblo. Further comments that people are trying to beat a dead horse. (Additional comments not recorded.)

Tom Minkler states that he agrees the results were changed and believes that the Board should reinstate the six or hold a new election.

Don Toy: Tom Minkler states that he was on the original elections committee and that he agrees the results were changed and believes that the Board should reinstate the six people elected or hold a new election.

The Chair refers the matter to the Bylaws committee.

**Agenda Item Number 7: Discussion and Possible Action to identify a method for staggering terms of Board members and drafting such language to be included in the HCNC Standing Rules**

The Chair refers the matter to the Bylaws committee.

**Agenda Item Number 8: Board Member Comment** - Comments from Board on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction

Peter Woo commented on the property at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Everett site. Suggest that the Board might draft a letter of interest on future plan.

Kim Benjamin notes that on December 23<sup>rd</sup> escrow closed on the site. Several options were stated including Gold Line extension, parking lot, jail, hotel. This would be an opportunity to find voice and show how it will affect the community.

Alicia Brown comments regarding the invitation of Council Office 14 and 1 to come before Board for an installation ceremony.

Edmund Soo Hoo states that Mrs. Kam Lee has been named Person of the Year. (Further comments not recorded)

Don Toy: representing the Assembly District # she lives in.

Don Toy states that this is a great recognition since Mrs. Lee is a 97-year-old woman who is a part of a handful of non-English speaking people to receive such an honor. (Further comments not recorded.)

**Agenda Item Number 9: Public Comments** – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker

Mr. Jarvis congratulates the Board on its ability to not be so fractious and for getting things done.

George (last name not recorded) informs the Board of a Mardi Gras event at El Pueblo, and states that the Courts of Chinatown, Little Tokyo and Olvera Street will come together for a wonderful event that will bring the communities a together.

Ms. Vu states that although the HCNC is not a fractured democracy, simply that people hold different opinions and encourages everyone to work together.

Don Toy: replace democracy with group/committee.

Mr. Minkler states that the HCNC is a great opportunity to have greater representation and must work on outreach. He states that he used to be on DONE e-mail list, but was not included in the information about this meeting and that the public posting at Bloom's Store did not happen.

Mr. Greg Nelson and Michele S. Cuevas from DONE share comments with the Board. (Not recorded.)

Don Toy: What were important points.

**Agenda Item Number 10: Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events**

Albert Domasin states that communication with the Council Offices is important and is interested in a Motion to have representatives from the Council Officers as a standing agenda item. Mr. Domasin introduces the motion, it is second by Danny Young and voted in favor by the Board. (Vote tally not recorded.)

Mr. Domasin suggest the formation of outreach committee to publicize meetings and promote participation.

Mr. Benjamin request that the President task a group regarding the nine acre site on First and Alameda. Also suggest that the HCNC formalize outreach and communication efforts beginning with a thorough Email list.

Peter Woo states that he will consider development of infrastructure including community election, PAC, Community outreach, Culture and budget and finance. (Further comments not recorded.)

Don Toy: Wants to replace Community outreach, Culture and budget and finance with "outreach to groups such as CSCSC Sen (? Can't read), Alpine, Teen Post, etc.

Al Soo Hoo states that the Chinatown library has a new address that must be put on the HCNC record.

William Kramer makes remarks regarding the housing Community. (Full comments not recorded.)

Don Toy: Main points should be reflected.

Jose Luis Sedano says he would be interested in supporting a Motion to reinstate the elected officers if the bylaws committee allowed.

Don Toy: wants to change elected officers to "elected HCNC Members were removed."

Jonathan Jerald states that this would mean unseating the appointed members.

Edmund Soo Hoo clarifies that nothing prevents the Board from adding seats.

Don Toy: Edmund Soo Hoo clarifies that it does not necessary mean that appt members would be unseated and nothing prevents the Board from adding seats.

Alan Kumamoto makes remarks (not recorded).

Mr. Domasin participated in best practices at the Alliance of Neighborhood Councils conference and would encourage others to participate.

Mr. Benjamin stated that he agreed with Alan's comments.

Don Toy: What is Mr. Benjamin agreed to?

Ms. Brown suggested that the next HCNC meeting be held at St. Peter's hall.

Brian Kito stated that the Little Tokyo community hosted a casual get together and would suggest that additional events be held as long as its not a majority of the Board. He also suggested a bus ride of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council to understand the community better.

Ms. Brown wished to clarify the meeting date. The Board was referred to the HCNC Standing Rules.

Mr. Domasin stated that there was a conflict with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month in the Victor Heights community.

The Chair stated that the Officers can decide on the meetings.

Peter Woo stated that he would like the Executive Committee to meet first.

Brian Kito suggested the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of April.

Peter Woo agreed with an April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, time to be determined. (Is this accurate?)

Adjournment at 8:30 pm

