

# H C N C

## Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

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Kim Benjamin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Alicia Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
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Mamie Hong, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
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Howard Nishimura, Treasurer  
Jonathan Jerald, Historian



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### REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 24, Thursday at 7:30 pm

Metropolitan Water District Courtyard Patio, 700 N. Alameda, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Preceding the Meeting was The Formal Installation of Officers Program beginning at 5:30 with Mayor James Hahn and other dignitaries.

**HCNC Board Members Present:** Mary Amason, Kim Benjamin, Alicia Brown, Albert Domasin, Dominc Erhler, 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.

Not Present: William Kramer, Father Giovanni Bizzotto, and Stephen Guerrero

Chairperson Peter Woo called meeting called to order.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I was told by management we must vacate the room at nine. Everyone of you should have minutes for last meeting. Can I have somebody read it to us or you can read it yourself so we can review.

**Don Toy:** When did you send this out sir?

**Jonathan Jerald:** I mailed a copy to you 3 or 4 days ago. You should have received a copy at least 2 days ago. Or by email several days ago.

**Don Toy:** I received it this morning sir.

Jonathan Jerald: Have you had a chance to review it?

**Don Toy:** No, I have not. I just want to let you know, I just want it on record I received it this morning, would like to get it in a more timely manner. I like to get it in a timely manner so I can review it.

**Jonathan Jerald:** You've had it for two days and you haven't had a chance to review it?

**Don Toy:** I received it this morning sir.

**Jonathan Jerald:** You received it this morning and you haven't had time to review it?

**Don Toy:** I'm suggesting that in the future I would like to receive one week in advance.

**Jonathan Jerald:** It's only a 6 or 7 page document, I would think a day is more than sufficient time to review the document.

**Don Toy:** When I receive it this morning we all work, I don't it's necessary that we drop everything to review it. I'm not trying to be difficult, on the other hand I don't think it's right for you to think that because maybe you can do and you have the free time that everybody does, we do work. I would like to suggest at least the minutes, and as we have talked about in the past a minimum of one week in advance. I don't think that's asking too much.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We will do everything we can to do this but at the present we are totally understaffed and are using volunteers and to do this. It's lucky for us we have the packet today. We have to do a lot of things to make this happen. We understand your concern about getting it in a timely manner. It only takes an hour to a half an hour to review the board minutes.

**Don Toy:** Mr. President, I appreciate your comments, I'm not arguing with you, I understand you don't have enough people to work or play, all I'm suggesting is since I got it this morning, I have not had time to review it and that to say let's read it and review is not reasonable in my mind, that's all. If you're talking about want to be inclusive let's do that. I appreciate you're saying Mr. President that we will try our best, and yes if I get it in three days I'll try harder, I'll make that commitment to you. But please don't say well just read it now and do it. That's all I'm saying.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Okay, if you feel badly, if you don't want to read it yourself you can use one of our...

**Don Toy:** Can I ask you one question sir before we begin? Are we following your agenda and we're in the inaugural address now sir?

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We are not following the agenda exactly as it is because time is under a constraint. I would suggest that we just go on and not spend time on my address.

**Don Toy:** Okay, in that vein, if you're going to do the minutes now, can I suggest that as we've done in the past make the suggestion to put the item number 9, the public comments, just as the commissioners of the Neighborhood Councils, the BONC, the board of commissioners, that we put public comments at the beginning because a lot of participants have been waiting since 5 o'clock and wanting to be part of this ceremony in terms of the inauguration as well as this meeting.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I just don't want to spend more time on this and if they can keep their comments to 30 seconds, I can do, otherwise I can't do it.

**Kim Benjamin:** A point of clarification. If you're going to restrict the time to 30 seconds per person, which I have no objection to, are you going to restrict the number of people as well if you are going to restrict the time to 30 seconds per person and I presume that's going to require some comment and response.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I think we have all the speakers filling out cards.

**Kim Benjamin:** How many do you have:

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I have 8 and several speaker cards presented by one person so obviously that's 9.

**Kim Benjamin:** So is it possible for us, if we're going to move this up to the front of the agenda, is it possible for us to put some kind of limitation on it? If we spend an hour and twenty minutes on that we have no meeting.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** So we're going to restrict the comments to 15 minutes.

**Kim Benjamin:** Yes, and anybody we haven't gotten to in the 15 minutes let's put them on the normal agenda schedule of item 9 and try to get to them when we can at the end of the meeting which is the normal schedule that we can try and accommodate a little of each.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We will allow 15 minutes, and everybody obligated to the 30 seconds commitment.

**Don Toy:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have a problem with 15 minutes and what Mr. Benjamin is saying if we have other people, however, 30 seconds is really not enough time. Put it down to one minute I thought and that, normally, when we discussed it as a group we said two minutes. I think we need to at least allow people an opportunity.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Then I will put it on item number 9.

**Don Toy:** You're tell me then that the suggestion of keeping it to 15 minutes and allowing people to speak for 2 minutes and if there are left over speakers then we put them back to item number 9 is not acceptable? That's what was suggested by Mr. Benjamin, I thought

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I suggested that you limit yourself to 30 seconds.

**Don Toy:** No, but 15 minutes total so I'm saying what's the issue in allow people to take a minute to 2 minutes to speak?

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We're trying to limit to 30 seconds okay so we don't go over the 15 minutes.

**Don Toy:** Right, I agree with that.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We've spent 5 minutes on this already, if we go ahead with the 30 seconds we can get it over with in 15 minutes over or less. If we have more speakers left after than we go to one or two more.

**Don Toy:** Okay, that's acceptable.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Mr. Snyder will now come up and speak.

**Arthur Snyder:** My name is Arthur Snyder, I'm an attorney, I'm a shareholder, stakeholder in this community, my office is on Sunset Blvd within the area but I here today representing Pro Bono Public Health, a federation of Chinese organizations who represent 1.8 million members and 200 American citizens in the Chinese Community of the United States of America, I'm their representative Pro Bono. Also I've been authorized to carry the representation to date of the CCBA, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, which represents to some 80 organizations of Chinese Americans in Los Angeles. We are raising once again, that which has been raised indirectly, but prior to the inauguration, of the invalidity of the election of this board that just took place. The question that is a very serious one and that creates a situation in which there is a question of validity in any action by this board, whether it be an advisory action or a mandatory action or even a matter of persuasive action directed toward the government and so long as that question continues to hang, as long as that question continues to hang, so long as the department stonewalls the question and says we made a decision, no one else can hear from us and until the commission itself hears the question till council takes it up, this entire matter, everything you're going through continues under a shadow and it should not be so. I would urge that this board, especially before they took any serious determinations on anything, in order to avoid that later, and causing problems to ask the commission to undertake a review of the election and to hold hearings on what happened in the election and report it back to the city council. Now I do know...

**Kim Benjamin:** Are we going to adhere to this timeframe? I'm sorry, we had a process Mr. Snyder and it's a disrespect to the process.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Another 30 seconds Mr. Snyder.

**Arthur Snyder:** DONE is not representative, but I'm asking you, that this is suppose to be a representative process, it's suppose to be a process whereby the people of a community select and vote for themselves who will be, who will come, will become advisory on their ? to government. It's not a place in which ... make decisions.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Thank you. Next speaker is John Toah (?)

**John T:** First of all I was very surprised that you were offended by the sign, what I want to say is I was very offended when my friends ..... got thrown off the non-profit seats. What I want to say is that those people had thousands of supporters, people who voted for them and now the people are not being represented. I think it was in the Declaration of Independence that it said any of these citizens .... Applause covered.

**Peter Wong:** I think it's not fair for the DONE to kick off the 5 representatives of the non-profit. If they're elected by the majority of votes I urge DONE and the board as well as the HCNC to put those people, the representatives back immediately on the board of directors.

**David Petzel:** Chinatown Stakeholder going on 20 years now both as a monitor for the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department, 15 years also as a volunteer. To cut to the chase it appears that there is a discrepancy in the interpretation of the bylaws regarding this election. I think what's important for the board to consider is to take the egos and perhaps the personalities out of the mix and look at the process. The person, the people with the most votes should be empowered and put onto the board, the person with the most votes should win the election and subsequent to that board being constituted you can appoint a committee or whoever you want to go in and revise the bylaws. What important here is that you get off to a good start. It seems to me that right now the way things are there's a mixed message right out of the gate and if you want to clear the air then I suggest you empower the board as it was elected by majority vote and then go back and rewrite the bylaws.

**George Poon:** Today is inauguration day for HCNC but it's a sad day for democracy. Very sad day. Five representatives non-profit were duly elected, everyone of them over 800 votes but we were lost in the installation. I think it's not fair, I think DONE is not fair, they remove people, opportunity and HCNC did not respond. I ask the board to put us back right now. It's not fair and it's a sad day for democracy. Mr. Woo, I know that you like democracy. Tell DONE that what you are doing is the same. HCNC don't do democracy.

**Catherine Vu:** Hello everyone. I spoke several times to the non-profit issue about reinstating the 5 individuals that were kicked off, however, it just seems like, although several of the board members have approached me and told me that they agreed with what I've said it seems like no actions been made about this. My question to all of you is what are you going to do about this? The election occurred on November 14<sup>th</sup> and were in April of 2003, it was in November of last year and we're still sitting around and we're waiting and it's still the same issue that's been brought up at every single meeting and it doesn't seem like the board has addressed this issue yet. And my question to all of you is what are you going to do today about reinstating the 5 that have been kicked off the board, as well as the other individuals that were disqualified for wrong reasons? Please look into that and please take that into consideration and please look at all the ramifications of what damage it has caused the community. The community has lost trust in the electoral process, please take that into consideration because the next election is right around the corner.

**Leanne SooHoo:** I'm a Chinatown Stakeholder. I'm here to speak on same issue. 5 non-profit seats were taken off the board. I spoke many times at these meetings also and I'm really disappointed that James Hahn is not here because I just feel that I'm speaking to the wall and I'm speaking but my voice isn't being heard. It should be one voice one vote, and that's how it's always been and I don't understand why now specially that DONE has, I've attended that meeting where they spoke about the electoral process, how it's going to be voted, they specifically said that anyone could vote for any non-profit seat at large and now we're not being heard.

**Tom Minkler:** I'll just say real quick that I agree with everything that everyone else said about the election not going very well and I've said it before that the process is just wrong.

**K. See Pang:** George Poon speaks: Mr. Pang is a stakeholder in Chinatown, he would like to ask for me to represent about 10 people there. Okay now, all this time people, they are working in Chinatown and they are 45 stakeholders, and they all come out to vote on November 14<sup>th</sup> and after that all these 10 people keep asking me, Mr. Poon, we vote for you, we vote for the 5 representatives and the people's representative. They are all elected the majority vote and how come they are not represented on the HCNC Board? I've been facing these questions and I don't have an answer. I think DONE should tell us the answer now and HCNC and in the opinion, they voted for these people and they've spoken their voice and they want these people on the HCNC Board and to do that they are sitting on the board now and they want the HCNC to right the wrong and get out your conscience? Today is inauguration day and where is your conscience? Without those people with the majority of the vote, without [can't understand] people with 800 votes and cannot sit in where they're represented to represent the neighborhood is ridiculous. Sad day for you, sad day for HCNC and sad day for democracy.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** And now that will conclude our public comments. I want to say a few words. The speakers are addressing a concern left over from the last election. It was not perfect. It is the board's intent to rectify and to make this acceptable to all. Under the spirit of cooperation and inclusiveness and fairness we have formed a committee to look into the issue. The results of the last election was interpreted by DONE according to the bylaw that we have. I don't find the bylaws very well written but I understand the pressure the committee members were under when wrote the bylaws. In order for us to change the election and to avoid anything like that in the future we are engaged and devoted to rewriting this bylaw. As a matter of fact we are very pleased to have Mr. Don Toy and Mr. Edmund SooHoo form a sub-committee to look into the matter to get all the opinions and change the bylaws the way you want it and we send it to the board so at least this is a beginning of something that can be done to make it a fair, a better community and council for all of you. This is my comment, I

hope you understand, I am totally sympathetic with how you feel and you can feel free to call me anytime to input any comment you want. We listen to anything you say. We try to do the things that are right for all of us. Thank you.

**Don Toy:** Mr. President. Yes, I just wanted to add one comment to your comment. I think Mr. Soo Hoo and I, I didn't know that we had formed a sub-committee, I think we said that we did have some thoughts, if that's the direction we're going I'm more than happy to talk to you, I want it to be official too, just want to clarify that. The second point is that I think what myself, Mr. Soo Hoo and other people are talking about is not only, and I hope people understand, it's not only about changing the bylaws now for the future, it is also the question of how to address the concerns as you rightly put, as you said and other people said are willing to listen and willing to address, perhaps, unfortunate situation as you say as well as the situation as exists, I did want to add that and make that clear that it's not only that we're going to go and change, suggest changes of bylaws so that the future doesn't happen, yes, that needs to be done but the question ahead, as you said, as you heard and everybody else heard, is we must in fact address the problems that exist now also and hopefully as you said earlier to the benefit of all concerned.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Again, Mr. Toy, I thank you very much for participating in the changing of the bylaws as a committee member and I'm sure from you and from Edmund we have some good insight of how the bylaws can be changed for the future elections. As for existing election results our hands are tied. I'm sure Mr. Snyder, outstanding councilman and lawyer himself says we cannot overturn DONE's interpretation. You know, we cannot get involved in the struggles to interpret anyway you want to but we are impartial, our hands are tied. If you'd like to or if you choose to the best thing is to exhaust all administrative avenues and to go to the court and ask the judge to make an interpretation of our bylaws, prove DONE was wrong and that relieves us totally from this awkward position. We did everything we could and I hope you understand.

**??:** Mr. Chairman, I suggest we stick to our agenda and avoid any further discussion.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Thank you. Now Approval of Minutes from previous meeting.

Jonathan, are you ready.

**Jonathan Jerald:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we postpone the approval of minutes until the next meeting.

Albert Domasian seconded. Motion carried.

**Albert Domasian:** How many months of meetings are we talking about? There are two months of minutes? Are we going to be in the same situation next month? Can we find a way so that everyone's read them, we can go through them quickly and approve them because we're going to be looking at 3 months of meetings to be going over at our next meeting.

**Kim Benjamin:** I agree with Albert, I don't know how long we can keep postponing our responsibilities, I think the claims and the statements made earlier about the validity of the election have already been spoken to, I respect the right of people to disagree but I think the constant dialogue does not produce any positive opportunity for the rest of the board to do anything at all and all we do is give voice to ourselves and our disagreements instead of voice to the people who elected us. I would like to suggest that if we're going to vote on this we vote that motion down, we vote on the minutes tonight, we move forward.

**Don Toy:** Mr. President, our these minutes of March the 6<sup>th</sup> the corrected minutes?

Chairperson Peter Woo: This is the draft subject to approval.

**Don Toy:** Are they the, I mean, have they incorporated the corrections voice by several or many of the council members, I don't know if these minutes incorporated the corrections.

Chairperson Peter Woo: To the best of my knowledge, no.

**Don Toy:** So, these minutes are purely draft and don't even have any corrections that may have been submitted by fellow council members and I would feel very, I would have reservations on trying to pass something when they may not have been, even the corrections have been added.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Do you want to postpone it?

**Jonathan Jerald:** Let's postpone it then.

**Don Toy:** I would agree.

**Kim Benjamin:** I think we keep doing this and I would like to suggest that there's an alternative, the alternative is that you can pass these minutes and if there are corrections that materially change the minutes intent, make the corrections and we can hear that at the next meeting and amend the previous minutes according by a subsequent vote to correct history. We can approve these, we can move forward, if there's a mistake we can correct it at a later meeting.

**Don Toy:** Mr. President, you run the meeting the way you want to, let me just point out to though, here we go again, if we can get minutes in a timely manner, at least a few days, I'm more than happy to take my responsibility. If we cannot, let me finish my comments. My comment is though, it seems very, very peculiar to me every time, let's pass something and we want to change it later. That's the very trouble we always get into later. Let's get out some rules and if we don't like it we'll change it later. That's why we have problems in elections. Just pass the bylaws first and we'll change it later, how can you do that in good conscience, it's not even logical. That's all I want to say.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** For those who supported the motion for the minutes.

[Someone asking a question about the sets of minutes, too much talking, can't hear, no one speaking into microphones and the Chairperson has not recognized anyone.]

**Jonathan Jerald:** The motion is to postpone the approval of the minutes to next meeting but I would urge everyone who has comments about changes to the minutes to communicate them to the executive committee so they can be included. Not one single member of the council has put forward a single comment on the February minutes but in good conscious, now I realize there are people who haven't had opportunities to review the March minutes and that's a very reasonable comment that they have an opportunity to get back to us but so far I don't have a single note from anyone for the February minutes.

**Dominic Ehrler:** Some of this problem may be mine, there were several people, George Poon, Tom Minkler, Don Toy, but I assumed that was going to be brought up when we go over it.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Why don't we vote on the motion and postpone the February and March minutes. [more background talking with no one speaking into the microphone or being recognized by the Chairperson]

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Okay, let's vote on the motion to postpone the February and March minutes. 16, we have a majority. Motion is carried.

Vote on motion to postpone approval of February and March minutes until next meeting. Ayes: 16

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I urge everyone to put in your comments at least two weeks before the next board meeting and we will determine the date of the next board meeting before the conclusion of this meeting so that we can have the changes in a timely manner. But we still have to work out this difficulty in a timely manner.

**Don Toy:** Mr. President, can whoever it is, as Dominic says, I gave him the comments to the February minutes, it's not here, I've also given comments through DONE, so can you please have someone, I don't relish redoing and going over again and again, that's my issue.

**Danny Young:** Mr. President, Just a quick comment, I just wanted to make sure that everyone understands that minutes are not the same as, shall we say, a court transcript, not every word uttered should be there, it should be the main flavor and the main point of the meeting. Thank you.

**Don Toy:** But certainly you cannot leave things out Mr. Young. I'm just reminding you.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Please identify yourselves when making a comment. That concludes the minutes portion of the agenda. The Special Funding Request is delayed until next meeting until we have a budget. Report from the Bylaws Committee on Proposed Methods for Filling Vacant Seats. This is an item that a lot of people addressed and unfortunately they have left already but I would ask our historian who has the Bylaw Committee to address the issues.

**Jonathan Jerald:** Obviously the most important thing that came before the committee was the proposal was a proposal to fill the three vacant seats, now, there was an obvious connection between the proposal to fill those 3 vacant seats and the concerns that many people had about the 5 or 6 people, depending upon who's counting, who were denied seats in the election due to a decision by DONE which is, of course, under dispute. We created a process in the bylaws committee whereby those who supported the idea that there was a perceived disservice to those denied a seat that they could create, that they could revise the bylaws in such a way as to create a method for the board to appoint those people to those seats. In addition, we agreed in the bylaws committee that no competing proposal, that is a proposal that would have been permitted under the bylaws as they currently stand to fill those seats would be considered until after the competing proposal, that is, the proposal to come up with a method of revising the bylaws that would allow the board to appoint those people had been heard by the full board. Additionally, we agreed that a reasonable period of time for that sub-committee, the Article 4 Sub-committee, now, I'm not sure, you guys mentioned earlier that you weren't sure who was taking charge of that, I assumed that you were going to lead the charge on the Article 4 Sub-committee.

**Edmund Soo Hoo:** Actually, you said you were going to email us and tell us how it was going to be structured, whether it was a public meeting or a private meeting.

**Jonathan Jerald:** Okay, let me say right now that the Article 4 Sub-Committee will be composed of those people who volunteered to participate who are currently members of the Bylaws Committee. And those members include everyone who was present at the last meeting and that includes at least two stakeholders who were at the last meeting who wanted to participate. I would further recommend that you choose a chairman for your sub-committee to get going on writing that language. At the end of the 60 days, which is actually 60 days or the second meeting following this meeting, that bylaw will then be brought forward to the full board and the full board will have an opportunity to consider and debate that bylaw change and no other competing bylaw will be proposed until after that debate has been completed. And the purpose of this I might say is from our perspective is to make sure within the system that we have in place, imperfect as it is, that they ever opportunity is given to those people who feel disenfranchised, many of whom I'm sorry to say have left, to make sure that they have an opportunity within the system to answer those grievances. The second matter that was taken up at the bylaw committee meeting which is also an urgent matter which is determining term lengths for the members of the board, that is, all board members are elected for three years and yet 1/3 of the board is suppose to be elected every year which means we have to do a lottery of some kind in which we determine which members serve for 1, 2 or 3 years so that we can get on with regular elections. However, it was discussed in the meeting that because of the delays

that were involved in the board started by the time we were required to have our first election an election committee would not have time to put it in place. So the proposal was put forward.

Question from the floor as to what item the board is on.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We were on item number 5 and now you're on item number 6.

**Jonathan Jerald:** You're right, sorry.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** What was the time line to fill the 6 seats that are vacant?

**Jonathan Jerald:** Yes Mr. President, concluding Item 5 the conclusion is that would be 60 days, or two meetings from the present meeting, that is the second meeting from the meeting now for the Article 4 Sub-Committee to bring before the board a bylaw proposal, a bylaw change proposal that would permit the board to seat those people who were perceived to have been denied a seat in the previous election. That concludes Item 5.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Okay, any questions about Mr. Historian's report on the last bylaw meeting? Or any question or any comment?

**Don Toy:** Yeah, I just want to be clear in terms of what Mr. SooHoo said earlier there were certain things that you had said you would do. I don't want to get into, winding up having misunderstandings in terms of guidelines and things, otherwise, what I would assume is that there were in fact interest as the President said from myself and other people regarding certain segments on Article number 4 and we can move ahead on that but until we get some specific guidance or wishes that you or the President and the Executive Committee might want us to follow than we will move ahead, or I will anyway, assuming that we are just interested parties in wanting to move in certain ways and talk to other people.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I think you are more than interested parties, you are part of our organization, a very crucial part and I'm glad that you're taking on that role Mr. Toy. We want to listen to what you have to bring forward.

**Don Toy:** But you understand my point.

**Jonathan Jerald:** Yes. Very specifically then in terms of the bylaws committee we would expect everybody to be doing work on all the bylaws and we have a very tough agenda coming up in the bylaws committee where we will be reviewing every single page of the bylaws and rewriting a substantial portion of them. It'll probably take longer than I hope, my term in office but in any event, for this specific task there was a committee that was created in the Bylaws Committee called the Article 4 Sub-Committee. I would say if I did not make it clear that time or if there is some ambiguity about what we had decided then I think we can agree now that some among those people who had volunteered to be a part of the Article 4 Sub-Committee should become the chairman of that committee and that committee should discuss thoroughly the implications necessary in coming up with a bylaw that will accomplish what it is that you want to accomplish. I think it means at least 3 or 4 changes in the bylaws to do it. I don't see any reason why you can't come up with reasonable language that would change those 3 or 4 bylaws that could be set before the entire board. In addition I would encourage you to talk with other members of the committee or even talk with me about what your reasonable expectations are both in terms of whether or not the city is going to allow that change because once a bylaw is passed by the board it's reviewed by the city and must be approved by the city before it can be put in place. Secondly, there may be some room for some compromise and I think that for you to pass that bylaw ultimately, you may want to give due consideration to what it means in terms of balance to all the communities. I think you can do those things but I would encourage you to be diligent in getting down and analyzing the bylaws and doing them informally with the city. I want to be clear that there is in fact interest in the Article 4 Sub-Committee.

**Question from the floor:** Is there a process that's going on concurrently in the event that this continued bylaw doesn't meet the deadline or if we don't come to an agreement with as the board as a whole, is there another process that would be, say, a back up?

**Jonathan Jerald:** First of all, address the time limit. 60 days, two months is a lot of time to come up with this stuff and I think it's being more than fair because we have 3 empty seats on the board. Whether or not at the end of two months we should be able either to say we are expanding the board by a number of seats and we don't know what that number is because we don't know what the bylaw changes being proposed will do, or that we should fill those 3 seats. It's not fair to the affected communities that they should lack representation longer than that. I think it's irresponsible of us to delay it any longer and I think 60 days is a very reasonable amount of time. At the end of 60 days a proposal, a viable proposal should be available to vote on in a board meeting. In the event that that proposal fails then the alternative is that there will be a method for filling the 3 seats, an administrative method that doesn't involve a bylaw change. Now, that method is already in place and the Executive Committee could, if it so chose, simply do that. But the Executive Committee has directed me, the Bylaws Committee, to come up, to give every opportunity to those people who feel that there is a perceived grievance to come up with an alternative proposal, in other words, we're not just going to fill up board and ignore those people who feel they have a legitimate grievance and I think that's an immanently fair position on the one hand. The other hand is the those 3 communities deserve also to have full representation so the balance equation is 60 days or 2 meetings from now. Now that means that in order to pass a bylaw you have to propose it at a meeting prior to the meeting at which it's discussed so that means that at the meeting following this meeting a proposal can be made that there will be a proposal for a bylaw change. Now it doesn't have to be specifically every, every I doesn't have to be

dotted and every T crossed at that time but there has to be an announcement that the next meeting there will be a bylaw change. Even if they're not prepared to do it at that point they can wait up until 6 days before the meeting and make sure that everybody is appropriately notified. So, I think there's ample time. What is the other part to your question, oh, can anybody else serve on the committee. In order to limit debate within a committee situation we're going to limit the number of people on the committee to those who joined it as of the first committee meeting. We're not going to educate people all over again at every committee meeting and these are going to be working meetings, we're going to sit down and look at lines and the language and figure out what's going on. But, that doesn't mean, however, about every 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the Bylaws Committee has we'll invite all stakeholders to participate and give their opinions.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Time is of the essence. Basically the Executive Board is unanimously determined to work a solution to the seats instead of the Executive Board appointing people to the vacancies. This is one of the things that ought to be fair and open to everyone is more than welcome to come to our Bylaw Committee meeting and give us their comments and stay with us and work with us. As Jonathan mentioned their doing two meetings but I encourage the Bylaw Committee to work as hard and as frequent as possible to get the result as soon as possible. We're trying to do it within 60 days and I think if we put our heads together and we work on the same goal we can do it in less than 60 days.

**Albert Domasian:** It's open to everyone and it's not limited to just the board members, correct?

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Yes. Okay, at this time we're now on Item 6.

**Jonathan Jerald:** I'll try to be really brief on this one, I'm sorry I'm taking so long.

**Question from the floor:** Sorry, just a quick question, I'm not sure if I missed it but are we passing over Item number 4?

**Answer:** Peter Woo and Jonathan. Yes, we're passing over, we don't have a budget yet.

**Kim Benjamin:** So, to follow up on Albert's question. We have a set number of members on the committee, I think, I don't know if it's 13 or 15, I forgot, sorry, and anybody in the community can come to that meeting and anyone in the community can voice an opinion, participate in the conversation, come up with an idea, try to solve the problem, try to see how to fix everything and then who votes at the committee level? Do we get one thing out of that or two things?

**Jonathan Jerald:** It's not clarified yet. Let me clarify the question. At a regular, ordinary meeting of the Bylaws Committee of which they'll be, every 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a meeting in which the public is invited, at a regular meeting the structure as we did in the second part the meeting the other night is will be followed where everybody gets a chance to comment on a particular bylaw, if that's insufficient they'll get a chance to comment again and we tend to reduce until we see consensus forming, we take votes and in the second part that I'm about to address, when that happens that's closed. That discussion will be limited to the 17 members of the committee. Sub-committees can invite as many people as they wish to participate in the drafting of material.

**?Edmund Soo Hoo:** At the meeting we had some people who were part of the public that were part of the committee itself and some people who weren't on the list and they also voted and they had their voice counted and tallied as a board member. Who gets to vote and does the public get to vote and does it carry the same weight?

**Jonathan Jerald:** All members of the committee, there is no voting in the committee, it's polling, it's not voting. The problem is we have to number of people of down, otherwise it would take a hundred years to do a few pages of these documents. But we want to make sure there's fair representation of all the communities but in a sub-committee, once you determine, for instance, that there's divergent opinion, then two groups break off and compose competing bylaws and in that sub-committee context you can talk to anybody in the community that you wish to bring in to help you to do that. It's only in the context of the meetings themselves as they happen, in order to move through our agenda that we're limiting membership of the committee itself in order to get things accomplished, like we did in the second part of the meeting the other night.

**Edmund Soo Hoo:** Maybe it's the wine but maybe I'm not hearing it right, at the Bylaws Committee meeting I don't recall that we set a number, Kim said 15, you said 17.

**Jonathan Jerald:** At the end of the meeting we had a number, Kim, I have a list that I don't have with me that includes at least 2 people who were at the meeting, who were not originally members of the committee who are stakeholders and board members who we included on the committee meeting that night. Nancy Yee and George Poon. They are part of the committee as far as I'm concerned.

**Edmund Soo Hoo:** There are probably a lot of interested people.

Jonathan Jerald: Well there are actually as many people who have dropped out. Can we move on to the next thing? Let me just speak to the next item which was how to come up with a way to determine who's going to serve one, who's going to serve two, who's going to serve three. The obvious method is to draw numbers from a hat, a one, two or three and we tried to reduce it to neighborhoods but here was no conceivable way to make the numbers add up by having each neighborhood draw numbers. An auxiliary discussion was that, the problem of the delay in the way the board took off. We are facing elections and we have no time to plan them so it was agreed, it was a unanimous agreement among the committee that we, that the first year of service be 24 months long or rather that we delay the first elections for a year in order to allow the board to get under way. We checked

with DONE and there wasn't a problem with that because all of the other provisions stay in place. Everyone serves a one, two or three year term but because of the delay in the start of it that term is prolonged at the beginning of everybody's term by 12 months. That means that the first elections will take place in the fall of 2004 rather than this fall. This is notice that that proposed bylaw change will be put before the board at the next regular meeting of the board in a months time. That concludes my summary report of the Bylaws Committee.

**Mamie Hong:** Again a short comment on that. What you had mentioned about how we had voted, I just want to bring up something that happened to me recently, I did vote that way originally and I just want to encourage everyone to rethink it a little bit about extending our first election till next year. What made me rethink it was that, you know on the weekends I run into my Aunt Elizabeth's store and my tenants upstairs who voted for me for the HCNC and they always want to know updates, what's been going on, and interested and they're abreast of the controversies and such and one thing that said this past weekend to me that kind of disturbed me a little bit is, "oh, so you're going to change things, like how they were suppose to be to." So they said you and that kind of disturbed me and it's true, I represent them. That is true, we originally did, it seems like we're doing it because it's inconvenient to us, just hold it off a year, but I don't think it's such a bad thing, just do it now.

**Jonathan Jerald:** I would dearly love to do it now, the problem is that we have bylaw pending that will affect how we structure the elections. We don't even have an Elections Committee and I don't see anyway we could possible hold the elections.

**Al Kumamoto:** What you're doing right now, process wise, is you're introducing this, and this is going to be discussed next time.

**Mamie Hong:** So we're just bringing it up as food for thought. Something to just think about as I did over the weekend.

**Al Kumamoto:** And we're going to vote on it next time?

**Jonathan Jerald:** Yes

**Kelly SooHoo:** Yeah, I would also like to add the comment that perhaps we should send it back to the committee to re-discuss the issue because I was there that night also and I also voted to push it back one year but I also remember that half or maybe a third of the committee wasn't there that night or they took off early because of their reasons and they weren't part of the input and discussion and they weren't part of the vote also and also I've spoken to some of the youth and I told them about that and the youth said...

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Let me remind you that on the Bylaws Committee it's not voting its just polling, they don't make any decisions. It's the board that decides. So last meeting we made a decision based on various factors, and if you change your mind, fine, we'll go over it again, just remind everybody that according to last to last Bylaws Committee's meeting we had a common consensus because of the reason of technicality by dates and time we may have to postpone the election, we still could do it earlier rather than later.

**Jonathan Jerald:** All we do in the Bylaws Committee is try to bring, concentrate the debate and then bring it forward to the board, but what we can't do is continue to keep things going in that committee, they have to brought before the board, it's the board that decides, not the Bylaws Committee. So, if you have a debate or a problem with the Bylaws Committee, the appropriate thing to do is to bring up your concerns when its voted on by the full board.

**Don Toy:** Would it be appropriate to have the committee discuss it again?

**Jonathan Jerald:** No, we have way too much work to do. We've got elections, do you want to have and election?

**Don Toy:** Yes

**Jonathan Jerald:** We have election bylaws that haven't been introduced. We have budget bylaws that have to be written, the way the bylaws are written right now the City may not even be able to give us money. We have urgent, urgent matters to get through. What you're saying, I think, is that, you have valid concerns, don't debate them in the committee, the committee doesn't decide anything, take it before the board.

**Don Toy:** You know Mr. Chairman, both chairmen, one the Bylaw Chairman, the other the HCNC, so in theory you're trying to say, no, in practice, the final decisions of the whole HCNC, the way to move it ahead and try to make decisions in a more timely manner is try to discuss these many concerns and to try to workout a lot of the problems so we won't have to take a whole meeting to discuss, as you said, all these other points. If that is your wish then we'll do it in that way. I'm also looking at, and I was one of the people that left early, but as I said to the chairman of the Bylaws Committee shouldn't be picking tax day, the 15<sup>th</sup> or any other main days, you know, there could be other activities going on, I would request that you keep that into consideration. That's why I left early, I had seniors that needed to get their taxes done. Now normally I don't think anyone can point to a time where I haven't stayed to the end, that particular time though, as Kelly said, and I wondered...

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** I want you to concentrate on discussing the issues, not on April 15<sup>th</sup> and why you left early.

**Don Toy:** Then let me continue sir, at my pace, please, and that is, that if in meetings where a third or more of your people leave how can you in good conscience say you have had good discussion? If you said that it is, want to move ahead, move it ahead, then the very things that you're suggesting will happen. In large committee meetings here, where, if everybody...

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** So you can come late and go late.

**Don Toy:** No sir, that's not what I'm saying sir, all I'm suggesting is that in the course of meetings of sub-committee it is in fact to accomplish certain things and so that the question that is being brought up now is perhaps an alternative way to, hopefully, work out and discuss things. You talked about changing the bylaws for Article 4 as a method to do. That's all I'm saying, I have no arguments with you.

**Edmund SooHoo:** Just a short comment. The people who are interested in working on the Bylaws Sub-committee, we can schedule meetings and we can have as many as we need so that we don't have to bring those discussions here, right? Isn't that the idea Jonathan?

**Jonathan Jerald:** Yes

**Edmund SooHoo:** Correct, okay. That's what Kelly, I thought, was asking, spending that kind of time outside this meeting. I'm all for that and you're not willing to take the time to do that.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We need to move on.

**Don Toy:** Yeah, but when you say move on, what does that mean Mr. President?

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Item number 7. Creation of New Committees and Sub-Committees. Jonathan you need to give us an analysis of what is in our bylaws now. We cannot create a committee if the bylaws have not mentioned the committee so I think it important we study the bylaws.

**Jonathan Jerald:** There are a number of committees that the bylaws mandate that we create Mr. President. First of all, the Action Committee is mandated under 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mr. Kim Benjamin.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Okay, the Action Committee is in the bylaws and is mandated to be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President which in this case is Mr. Kim Benjamin.

**Don Toy:** What is that?

**Jonathan Jerald:** The Action Committee

**Don Toy:** Why I'm asking you, you didn't hear, I didn't hear it either.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** The Bylaws was written in a way that certain committees were already set in the Bylaws that we have to have and they also define the role of who should run the committee. One of the committees is the Action Committee and the Action Committee is the responsibility of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to chair.

**Don Toy:** And what is that?

**Jonathan Jerald:** Can I suggest that you read the bylaws, you're on the Bylaws Committee.

**Don Toy:** I've read the Bylaws.

**Jonathan Jerald:** The Action Committee, let me read from the Bylaws, Chairman of the Action Committee is a liaison officer between area chairmen for public safety and public improvement suggestions from community stakeholders and the appropriate governmental offices or government officials. The Action Committee is for getting things done. The Program Committee is chaired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Alicia Brown. The Program Committee will be in charge of all arrangements for regular HCNC programs as well as any special events that may be recommended by the HCNC or the Board. The Stakeholder Committee is under the chairmanship of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Jose Luis Sedano. The responsibility of that committee is to register stakeholders and to determine, well, it says here, register stakeholders as they present proof of their Stakeholdership. Proof of Stakeholdership is an open question that unfortunately has to be decided by the Bylaws Committee. The Early Notification Committee, and there is a system in City government for an Early Notification system which involves notifying the people about meetings and other events which are pertinent to their area of interest is automatically chaired by the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Mamie Hong, Mamie is also automatically chairperson of the hospitality and refreshment.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Thank you for the wonderful food.

**Mamie Hong:** Your welcome.

**Jonathan Jerald:** The Budget and Finance Committee is bizarrely actually chaired by the Treasurer so in this case the Bylaws got it right. The only other committee, the Bylaws Committee, of course, was created by a motion that was passed by the board. No other committees are mandated by the Bylaws. Those are the standing committees which are governed by the Bylaw Rules. Other committees that have been suggested have been a Housing and Homeless Committee, which was proposed by William Kramer, the Arts and Culture Committee, which has been proposed and there is a third committee, the Public Safety Committee. I think at this point it would be prudent for us to hear what others think is appropriate to have.

**?:** What about the Election Committee?

**Jonathan Jerald:** That's the one, the Election Committee, bizarrely, there's no reference to an election committee in the bylaws by some strange omission. Obviously it's of supreme important to create and appoint an Election Committee as soon as possible.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We only have 4 committees that is equally in existence, one, the other committee is still in proposal through the bylaw changes. We're trying to decide what new committees we want to form.

**Jonathan Jerald:** Oh, excuse me there was one other committee, the Transportation Committee.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** The Transportation Committee

**Kim Benjamin:** Mr. President, This is not necessarily an item for discussion on the agenda, we again stray, this kind of interaction is productive at times in the right setting. I suggest the committees seem to be ill defined to some extent. I know that they can be better shaped if given some attention and some opportunity by the chairs of the respective committees and by the each of us as board members. I have, in a limit context, tried to think on my own time, figured out what do they do? I think we should all task ourselves before the next meeting to look at what the bylaws give us, which may not be a lot, but they give us something, they can be generous in opportunity for definition. Come up with 3 or 4 things you think each committee should be thinking about and give it the committee chair and then let that committee chair and that committee group, if you want to be a member of that committee, volunteer, and lets start putting some shape to this instead of just looking at them as innocuous entities because they're suppose to do stuff. One of the things we did today, Action Committee, was get in front of the LAPD and find out what Parker Center II's doing. That's an important subject. I'm sure there are at least 6 or 7 others in all the other communities we ought to think about.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Thank you Kim.

**Alicia Brown:** In the Bylaws, those committees that fall under one of the vice president, I think that we should start on that, given the trust from the chair and the Executive Board to go ahead and start working.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Why don't we put on the next meeting's agenda that all the appropriate persons in charge of the committees stated in the Bylaws come up with a new definition of the goal of the committee to report to the whole Board for implementation and also for other committees you think that we should establish please come forward so the Bylaws Committee can change the bylaws to fit in such committees.

**Alicia Brown:** I had in mind starting already because it's already in the bylaws and I think that we already that we're suppose to be doing that so I'm saying that we should start working on what is required according to the bylaws and start working on it now and then when we have our next board meeting we come to the board and say, this is what we think is the interpretation of what's written in the Bylaws and get going on that and maybe even invite some people to be that particular committee depending on what committee each vice president has. Say, for example, if I'm the Program Chairman, I could say there are a couple of people I'd like to serve on my committee or invite others to serve on the committee. The limit of members on that committee, we could go wild on that one. So I would like to start already.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Now lets move forward to Item 8.

**Tom Minkler:** I live in the Arts District. I'm just concerned that the process for reforming committees haven't even been set out. How do we reform it? Who gets to decide who's on it? When do they meet? How is it publicized? A lot of this was decided at the Executive Committee meeting I guess.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** The Executive Committee has the right to pick the committee members but I'm sure you're welcome and everybody is welcome to participate. If we know the chair's name already see them.

**Jonathan Jerald:** The committees themselves are designated in the bylaws, that's where they come from.

**Tom Minkler:** But it doesn't say much about, please let me finish before you start talking, I understand that we have committees that are chaired by certain people but how much notice is there, when the first meeting is, who's on them?

**Jonathan Jerald:** That's going to be decided at the next meeting.

**Tom Minkler:** All I'm saying is, before we have any sub-committee meetings I just think there should be a written process of how they get on it, and all that stuff, and I don't see any of that. If I was someone who didn't know anybody, I know who you are and I can come talk to you but is there an email address list, a phone number for anyone of the committee? How would I even know where to start, how would I know when the first meeting is? Ask somebody?

Several people talking at once.

**Edmund SooHoo:** I think Tom Minkler and others that are in the audience, they want to be involved and I think it's very important that we as council members pay attention to how we communicate to our stakeholders and the most important thing, is lets have it very clear as Tom and I think even Alicia and others have alluded to, that, lets me very clear how we communicate with HCNC, is it by email and what is that definitive email? Is it by regular US Mail? Who's address do we use? And if its by word of mouth who is going to be the recipient of those comments and will they forward it to the proper places so there's no miscommunication.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Mr. SooHoo, thank you, we totally understand. About the HCNC, there are 20,000 or 30,000 residents in the area, it is impossible for us to contact them individually but I urge you, I urge all the council members here, use your word of mouth, tell your friends, tell your neighbors, tell them about us and get them involved.

Everyone talking at once.

**Alan Kumamoto:** I want to go back to the point that was made in terms of the committees because I think we do need to have a uniform process for membership on the committees. How many, I think we need look at whether we need to have representation from the geographic areas. We could decide to do that or not do that or say it could be limitless but I think we need to have some boundaries. If we want to be uniform then maybe that's the way we want to go. Do they want to look at certain committees as being dedicated to a limited number because of the nature of that committee, but I think somebody has to take a look at this from an overall standpoint,

unfortunately, I think it's almost like the Bylaws Committee, or the Executive's Committee responsibility to come back to us, to make a recommendation as well as for us to make some suggestions to whoever that representative body is. So it's either a sub-committee of the Bylaws Committee to take a look that and gather that input or to make some recommendation.

**Albert Domasian:** Mr. President, I would like to propose that we make the Elections a part of and a function of the Stakeholder Committee just to avoid too many committees and duplications. I think that elections neatly fits into Stakeholdership.

?? I second.

Every one speaking at once.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Let's take order. Let's take order. Bylaws Committee is already in the bylaws and the Election Committee is not. Your suggestion is pretty good, the Election Committee, the Election as a role of the Stakeholder Committee.

**Albert Domasian:** Correct. I think Elections should be a function and a part of Stakeholdership. As I understand it the Stakeholder Committee is a standing committee that exists all the time and the Election Committee a temporary committee and I'm suggesting that we make it part of the Stakeholder Committee.

Chairperson Peter Woo: We're not trying to push everything to the next meeting but the committee actually is part of the infrastructure, a part of that decision of function so maybe we could discuss what Albert just suggested, the distribution of the membership to the committee and define the role such as you say the Stakeholder and Election Committee. Think about it and the decision will be at the next meeting.

**Kim Benjamin:** It took 13 years for this country to go from 1776 and the Declaration of Independence to a Constitution. Let's try to be patient with each other and dual track this. Let's do all these things at the same time but let's not let that stop us from doing anything out there at all. The meeting today with the LAPD started something I think is important for us. Councilman Ed Reyes has offered us a bus for May 31<sup>st</sup>, we've talked about a bus trip for the community, they want us to get back to them, I've reserved it for the moment. The Councilman will join us for the communities he represents, he wants to get involved in this area. I'd like us to consider that tonight and vote on it, put it in place and get us set for that trip on May 31<sup>st</sup> on Saturday.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** There's a motion on the table to accept the invitation of Councilman Ed Reyes to commensurate a bus tour for all council members in the district.

**Don Toy:** What exactly is that timing? What is the time? I mean this is really a point.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** May 31<sup>st</sup>, no time.

**Kim Benjamin:** I agree with you, I've only tentatively reserved it from 8:30 to 3:30, with the goal of having lunch at midday and taking 6 communities and having an hour in each community. I haven't set it in cement, I'm just trying to facilitate it and get something started. I would assume that each group, in El Pueblo, in Solano Canyon, would each figure out what they want to show us about their community and then they should define where they want to stop, how long they spend and then we go from community to community, have lunch together in El Pueblo and move on.

Everyone speaking at once.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Calls for motion. Is seconded.

Motion for Bus tour: Ayes: unanimous Motion passed.

Everyone speaking at once.

**Don Toy:** Mr. Chairman, if you want to put me on Public Comments I'll do it on Public Comments, I do want you and this whole committee to think about, one of the things I want to go on record objecting to is that is that we all seem to rush, say that we only have five minutes to vote, so lets vote on something. That's really inappropriate in my opinion, we need to have full discussion, in addition, things like, things like, and I bring it up every time, housekeeping items, let's please do it, if we're going to get minutes out, lets get it out, if we're going to have cards in, let's do the thing, if we're going to have speakers ready let's do that, if we're going to have certain things that are going to be available at work, lets have them work. I say this every meeting, I want to go on record again as part of the public, it's not happening.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** We totally agree with you and, hopefully, we'll get [can't understand] and thank you for your comments. And now I move to adjourn the meeting.

**Don Toy:** But we're still on public comments. You said 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting and then at the end of the ...

Everyone speaking at once.

**Chairperson Peter Woo:** Said that we were out of time, thanked everyone and closed meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.