

COUNCIL OFFICERS  
Peter Woo, President  
Kim Benjamin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Alicia Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Jose-Luis Sedano, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Mamie Hong, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
Dominic Ehrler, Secretary  
Howard Nishimura, Treasurer  
Jonathan Jerald, Historian

# H C N C

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2003, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: CCBA 925 N. Broadway, Chinatown

Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Members of the public who wish to speak must fill out a Speaker's Card and submit it to the Secretary prior to the Call to Order. Agenda is posted for public review at Bloom's General Store at 716 Traction Ave, Chinatown Public Library 39 N Hill St., La Luz del Dia at 107 Paseo de la Plaza, Little Tokyo Koban, 307 E. 1st Street, Solano Elementary School at 615 Solano Ave., Eastside Market at 1013 Alpine St. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles 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. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Senior Project Coordinator, Michele S. Cuevas at (323) 224-2313 or e-mail to mcuevas@mailbox.lacity.org .

Roll Call: Dominic Ehrler, Joan Lee, Kam Lee, Don Toy, Ne Hay Tom, Edmund SooHoo, Mamie Hong, L Wang, Kim Benjamin, Nancy Yee, Alicia Brown, Brian Kito, Charles Woo, Alan Kumamoto, Albert Domasin, Kelly SooHoo, Howard Nishimura, Mary Amason, John Schutz, Jose Luis Sedano, Jonathan Jerold, Peter Woo (22)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Guest Speakers – Kim Benjamin introduced guest speakers.**  
**Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilman for District 14**

Antonio Villaraigosa, Represents El Pueblo. Talked about what's important in terms of the challenges ahead. Said the swearing in began with a service and he brings a commitment to a community that wants to be involved and bring improvement to their communities. They had 1100 people doing cleanup, painting murals, etc. Said that to engage in mitzvahs means acts of kindness. The city can do some things but in an era of limited government we need community involvement. He is looking forward to serving us.

Parker Center Complex: He's been briefed on the issue. He wants to work with the neighborhoods, he doesn't know how far along the project is but community involvement is very important and Parker Center shouldn't be in a place that disrupts the neighborhood. He is aware that there is a lot of concern in Little Tokyo.

Peter Woo: Antonio Villaraigosa is former Speaker of the House, President of City Council, and our future mayor. We know your leadership, potential and caliber. NC formed several months ago and we want you to educate us on what is the expectations on us to help Los Angeles become a greater City?

Antonio Villaraigosa: He has an unbridled belief in our ability to transform our communities. No question that there are people here who have been involved for 20 – 40 years and people newly involved. He hopes this Neighborhood Council will be one of those groups that get involved with issues and solutions. He expects and hopes that the HCNC will work with his office to identify the problems and come up with solutions that people feel are fair and practical. Hopes we expect him to be someone who speaks straight, who calls them like he sees them, who will listen and be able to change his position. He wants us to know all the street lighting projects in our areas, the street repair, etc. Thinks the city is too mysterious and one of the things he wants is for us to know what the city is doing in our district. He wants to share some of the power

of his office with the Neighborhood Council's because when they're empowered then he is empowered and he's a better representative.

Don Toy: You want to take the mystery out of the power structure and be inclusive, and what I'd like to see is to bring people into the arena who don't have a voice, and that is sorely lacking right now. How do we get beyond just talking about it? I hope that you will truly do this.

Antonio Villaraigosa: He thinks part of the problem is that people feel they don't have a voice. He's new but working to achieve inclusiveness. No council office has ever put 1100 people on the streets doing service. He thinks he has that support because people know he's for empowerment. El Pueblo is the melting pot, a lot of history there and he want to work with us to reclaim it, to invest in it. He and Jose Luis Sedano are gong to work on getting funding. This is the area people lived who couldn't live anywhere else. He wants to work with the artists in the Artists District on livable rents, they built it up and now they're getting priced out. The issue of homelessness is also something we have to tackle.

Jose Luis Sedano: El Pueblo is the smallest district and he'll need help to get the vote out, to come to La Placito because there is an emerging history of people who are still coming here from Mexico. Wants to get the older and younger people to understand what the Neighborhood Council's are.

Antonio Villaraigosa: He wants us to welcome all the immigrants no matter where they come from, and we need to have all economic levels living in an area.

Kim Benjamin: Finding a common ground and common voice, this is an organization who's part of everybody. I'm a Jew from Boyle Heights. I think the great melting pot is LA now, not New York. Sometimes we have to slow things down to get heard. ENS, we passed a motion at the Executive Committee Meeting to ask the city to slow it down so we get adequate notice. We seem to miss projects where families can own their own home. Maybe expand the MTA call for projects. Antonio Villaraigosa has a project coming up, Sheriff's Baca Homeless Shelter, and it's causing great concern to many people. We'd like your support to reposition the project to a more appropriate site.

Antonio Villaraigosa: He's aware of Sheriff's Baca's proposal, and that we need some tough solutions, even tougher than the jail placement problem, and that is something that has to percolate through the communities. He wants to bring all the Neighborhood Councils together and start a district wide dialogue. Says before Sheriff Baca does anything he's going to have to sit down and listen to the community.

Regarding leveraging he says he can't even get into his office until midnight and hasn't a penny in his discretionary budget but he looks forward to the challenge of finding funds to leverage, federal, state, etc.

He's a big believer in affordable housing and says there are areas in the city who don't want to shoulder their share of affordable housing so the areas that are shouldering more of the responsibility should also get more funding for the mitigation. He thinks we have to bring more of the middle class into the urban centers. Most of the money comes from federal budget.

Questions:

Catherine Vu asks about winning in the HCNC election and then losing her seat because of the DONE decision. Antonio Villaraigosa: Told her to stay and be involved and run again. He just lost an election 2 years ago and ran again and won and in the election for council only 31% voted.

Alicia Brown: Asked him to take back to City Council the fact that the HCNC is composed of 6 districts: Solano Canyon, El Pueblo, Victor Heights, Arts District, Chinatown, and Little Tokyo. All of these are all different cultures and we all came together because they had to survived, and it's difficult and it's going to take some time. The HCNC is mostly CD1, then CD 9 and CD 14.

Antonio Villaraigosa: Says we can't do all the projects so we need to prioritize. There is no money. Guereos mural is a priority because it's the only one left in United States.

Don Toy: How would you bring more youth to leadership?

Antonio Villaraigosa: Says he's going to institutionalize days of service and he's going to put a corp together from the schools etc. And also put together some youth leadership institutes. As soon as possible he wants to put together a meeting of all the councils, and do it in compliance with the Brown Act.

Peter Woo thanked councilman.

**Ruben Flamenco, Bureau of Street Lighting**

Kim Benjamin explained about the Chinatown Streetlight program, cost ½ million dollars, city donated \$250,000 dollars and the rest put up by the CBID. Introduced Ruben, who explained the Chinatown Streetlight program. Showed pictures of the new streetlights. New streetlights are from Cesar Chavez on Broadway and Hill. Waiting for poles to arrive, should be early August or September. Broadway will be up and running in two months and then Hill street in another year.

Another project Alameda and Ord St. Right in front of Olvera Street have a Trolley pole and gong to refurbish those poles. Going to refabricate those poles and refurbish the ones that are there. Going to widen Alameda Street and come in with another ornamental pole.

Phase 3 is in front of the Chinatown Goldline station. We've already done the underground work and should see the base in another month.

Phase 4: Alameda Street-time consuming because adjacent to Corn Fields. Need to get a sense of what the park is going to look like.

4<sup>th</sup> street Bridge, trying to get funding from the state to put white light to illuminate the bridge with an architectural lighting design.

2<sup>nd</sup> phase up Hill Street and Broadway.

Phase 5 – under design and going to be build after phase 4.

Bureau of engineering came up with some of the phases because the street was being widened.

This is an example of projects that different communities can do. Streetlighting, sidewalk upgrades, etc.

### **3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

General Discussion on how to do minutes, whether to record.

Motion to cease discussion. Charlie Woo made motion. Alan Domasin seconded. 13 approved. 9 opposed. Motion passes.

Motion to approve the minutes in the packet. Charlie Woo made motion. Dominic Erhler seconded. 13 approved 8 opposed. Motion passes.

### **4. Comments from the Public**

Catherine Vu: Who's doing the agenda and how are these ideas getting on the agenda and can the public suggest items for the agenda?

George Poon: Very disappointed about how you did the minutes. We should give the public a chance to look at them month by month.

### **5. Discussion: Organizing, Defining and Prioritizing the Work of New Committees**

Bylaw Committee: Jonathan Jerald: haven't had any suggestions yet from Election Committee or the Stakeholdership Committee on priorities. In the meantime will deal with the proposals that are before us. Two bylaw changes up tonight we're voting on.

Action Committee: Kim Benjamin: The action committee has asked the members for 3 or 4 items that the HCNC can focus on. Some of us went on an HCNC Bus Tour and that was very good. We'd like each area to pick one thing they'd like the HCNC to work on in the next 12 months.

Parker Center: that's a Juggernaut which Jonathan is working on.

Program Committee: Alicia Brown: Contacted most of you for a couple of projects we might be able to do and conclude before our terms are up. I would like all of you to send to me a couple of things we can do. We have a lot of things going and we'd like to have some accomplishments before our terms are up.

Stakeholder and Election Committee: Jose Luis Sedano: Met once and will meet again this month and at next meeting will have a more definite report. The official report is that we will be finding a definite definition of what a stakeholder is and welcome your input of what you think a stakeholder is. This is very important because this is how we will be registering the stakeholders to vote and we will be registering the stakeholder prior to the election. We will probably be holding stakeholder mini fairs in each area, not all on the same day. In our next meeting we'll have a more complete report for you with the stakeholder definition and dates for the stakeholder registrations in each of the districts.

Question: how does the public know about these meetings? Do the meetings need to be posted according to the Brown Act? Jonathan Jerald: All committees created within the bylaws should be noticed and the minimal notice is 72 hours but we try to do 5 days.

Don Toy: correction, any standing committee must notice the public.

Hospitality Committee: Mamie Hong. Since we have no budget yet Mamie is bringing goodies from her bakery.

Early Notification Committee: Mamie Hong. Similarly to what we do to notice the public about our meetings it's how the city notifies us about issues they are tackling. One decision by DONE is that all Neighborhood Council's must be trained by the end of the year. DONE is coming up with how that will be done.

Peter Woo: We are urging the city to slow down and give us better notice and more response time. The idea was to give us a little time to breathe and respond. We want them to give us 7 days to respond for any fund, etc. It's been put on next month's agenda for approval. Some discussion about procedure.

Budget: Howard Nishimura: Turned all the reports into DONE and have not heard back when we will be approved. I'll check back tomorrow. General discussion about budget for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and then the rest of year and that this is committee reports.

## **6. Report from the President on Tourism Initiative, Senior Initiative and CRA Initiative**

Peter Woo: one of many tasks that the HCNC wants to accomplish is the Tourism Initiative to explore and join our efforts to attract more tourists to come to our areas. We're working on the possibility of arranging a one day tour to experience 3 cultures, Chinese, Japanese and Mexican and tour the museums. We've had 2 meetings with Robert Barrett. Our proposal was to try and organize tours of Chinatown, Little Tokyo and El Pueblo, scaled to a few hours tour of each of these areas. The people we are targeting are cultural tourists who spend more time in the city than other tourists and we think we can attract them. We also talked to the people at the Japanese American National Museum and the docents at El Pueblo.

Jonathan Jerald: In addition to those discussions it was proposed that there were other tie-ins and it turned into a proposal for a realty show that would make a mystery tour out of the history of the areas. LA Inc is coming up with money to fund the project.

Brian Kito: We also have the scavenger hunt out of the museum for the kids.

Peter Woo: Senior Initiative: Aging is a very big phenomenon facing us in the future as we have a large senior population. Our Neighborhood Council sets a good example of including the seniors. It's a good idea for us to have other senior citizen experts from the community to talk with us and work with us, from all the cultures, to get a good dialogue going about the aging of the community. I need Mr. Poon and Mrs. Wong's help to make this happen.

CRA Initiative: The CRA is involved in Chinatown and Little Tokyo. We want to arrange a round table meeting with the CRA, Don Toy, and area businesses and get input from the city council person about how we can develop this area together. I need everyone's help to make this possible.

Don Toy: How do you expect this board to be involved if this is indeed a board activity? What is the mechanism?

Peter Woo: Everyone's input should be solicited.

Don Toy: What mechanisms are you going to use? Who's involved? Is one representative enough? I asked George Poon and Mrs. Wong to help us with the senior initiative and I'm asking you to participate in the CRA initiative.

General discussion on the mechanics of the initiatives and how people are representing themselves. It was mentioned that people are identifying themselves as from their specific areas (Little Tokyo, Chinatown, Arts district, etc and not as representing the HCNC).

## **7. Discussion of Two Actions Issues in Each Community**

Postponed until next meeting.

## **8. Discussion of Survey**

Please spend some time looking at the survey, it's important to know what the stakeholders want. And any editing you can do to make it shorter and more concise. Postponed until next meeting.

## **9. Discussion and Action on Proposed Bylaw Change: Victor Heights/Forgotten Edge**

Motion: It is proposed that henceforth all references to the neighborhood hitherto referred to as "Victor Heights/Forgotten Edge" be referred to as "Victor Heights" in all HCNC documentation. Jonathan Jerald made motion, John Schulz seconded. General Discussion. For: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Jonathan Jerald: there is a process for changing or recognizing a name of a neighborhood and Dominic will process that.

**10. Discussion and Action on Proposed Bylaw Change: Motion for Reconsideration**

Motion: To amend bylaw Motion for Reconsideration by inserting Robert's Rules on Motion for Reconsideration. Peter Woo made motion, Charlie Woo seconded.

Edmund SooHoo amends motion to delete Motion for Reconsideration from the bylaws and state Motion to Reconsider: as defined in Roberts Rules. Seconded by: Kim Benjamin. Unanimous.

**11. Article IV Committee Report of Proposed Bylaw Change(s)**

Kelly SooHoo presented two ideas for bylaw changes. He will have more specific ideas to present to the Bylaw Committee. 1. Add another 5 seats, for 11 non-profit seats. 2. That the HCNC recognizes no higher authority above the HCNC.

**12. Report on Proposed Parker Center Project**

Brian Kito read petition against Parker Center and asked that board members pass it out in their communities.

Peter Woo: Council Woman Jan Perry is spearheading the Parker Center Project fight to create the best outcome for the community. Peter suggests we take a back seat and let Councilwoman Perry carry the ball and the HCNC just support all the groups. HCNC has a resolution in your package, please review this next month so we can vote on next meeting.

Kim Benjamin spoke to the HCNC about not taking a back seat on this. This is a legacy project for the Chief of Police. We have to do more than just show support.

**13. Report from DONE on Early Notification System (ENS)**

No report.

**14. Report from DONE on Status of Conflict of Interest Rules for Neighborhood Council Board Members**

No report.

**15. Other Items (No action will be taken on items discussed)**

No other items.

**16. Adjournment**