

COUNCIL OFFICERS
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Kim Benjamin, 1st Vice President
Alicia Brown, 2nd Vice President
Jose-Luis Sedano, 3rd Vice President
Mamie Hong, 4th 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

Thursday, July 31st 2003, 7:30 p.m.
St Peter's Italian Church, 1039 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 .

1. Add your added statement here.

2. Call to Order

Peter Woo called the meeting to order.

Asked public to fill out speaker forms.

Roll Call: Al Soo-Hoo, Danny Young, Leslie Ito Wong, Mary Amason, Howard Nishimura, Nancy Yee, Dominic Ehrler, Peter Woo, Jonathan Jerald, Edmund SooHoo, Don Toy, Ne Hay Tom, Mamie Hong, Kelly SooHoo, Mrs. Kam L Lee, Joan Lee, John Schutz, Giovanni Bizzotto, Charlie Woo, Jose Luis Sedano, Kim Benjamin. (22)

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Discussion of minutes:

Don Toy: Under approval of meetings, on point 3: May minutes, not given to us in a timely manner and have a concern that the minutes reviewed that night didn't give people enough time to review. And on page 4, line nine: thought that the action items on the agenda were not clear enough, not identifying what the action was, so public was not properly notified, therefore, we would be in violation of the Brown Act if we moved forward.

Peter Woo: Your point is well taken, but we are still short of manpower and doing the best we can.

Al Soo-Hoo: Add Al Soo-Hoo as present at the June meeting.

Edmund SooHoo: Item #3: whether to record minutes. Recorder: Minutes are always recorded.

Motion [Charles Woo, John Schultz]: Approve minutes with Don Toy's comments included.

Vote: Unanimous

4. Comments from the public

Tom Minkler: Need copies of all resolutions and materials for public to view before comments/voting takes place.

Should not be required to fill out a speaker card. You can't always know what's going to be said and then run over and fill out a speaker card. We need to make it more inclusive not less.

Peter Woo: We need a system and your point is well taken.

Tom Soong: We have a system we recommend all the NC's use. Speaker cards were given to Dominic to use and you can give the speaker card to Dominic at any time because the public has a right to speak on any item.

Peter Woo: We're trying to accommodate as much as we can. We will do whatever we can to help the process.

Don Toy: Perhaps what we can do during discussion is allow people to submit a speaker card during the discussion. The cutoff should be after all the speakers for that item are done.

Peter Woo: We just want a process that is fair. Still want to mandate a cutoff for speaker cards.

Don Toy: Then the public can fill out a speaker card and put every item on the card and then pass on an item if they don't want to speak on it.

Peter Woo: We're just trying to give Dominic time to organize the speaker cards. It's an experimental process and it will get better.

George Poon: When I look in the minutes it doesn't really reflect what I said. I was opposed to the way it was passed. I tried to get a copy of the minutes and I couldn't get one. I just want to reiterate that we should discuss it in the future.

Peter Woo: We have approved the minutes but I'm instructing the recorder to record George Poon's comments. Thank you for your comments.

5. Report from the President on working with other neighborhood councils

We have initiated contact with the Downtown NC and spoken about possible joint ventures for both Councils. We have several common concerns such as the Homeless issue and the filming issue. A lot of NC's are just being formed and I'm very proud to say that the HCNC is doing a lot of things and we're working hard to make this NC successful.

6. Budget Day Report: On July 26, Mayor Hahn met with Neighborhood Council leaders to begin the process of including Neighborhood Council input to proposed new City Budget (Peter Woo)

Fiscal year goes from July 1, 2003 and ends June 30, 2004. The mayor wants your input on what you want done in your area. He wants to know for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

They expect the NC to do the following, before Sept 30th, we have to report you, the public, about this and get community input. What do you want to see being improved in your district? Now, it is the role of the board member to input their opinion as well. On Sept 15th, we have to send 2 representatives to the NC and tell them what are the top 5 priorities of our NC based on what our district wants. We belong to the Central NC region (there are 7 regions all together). It is up the regional council to approve and submit the 5 priorities and then they will look at all 35 priorities from the 7 regions.

Gave examples of priorities. The whole process is to try and let the stakeholder at the grassroots level have a say in how the money should be spent and to give the NC some say in how the tax payer's money is spent. It is only about a month and a half away and we need to get our top 5 priorities.

Jonathan Jerald: Given the diversity of the NC, while we have many things in common, each district has several things that are not in common with the other areas and I wonder how we're going to come up with 5 priorities that covers all our areas.

Dominic Erhler: It came up so suddenly prior to this meeting that we're really not prepared. If we followed normal protocol we wouldn't have this done until January, but we need and will have it done by Sept 15.

Peter Woo: By August Board meeting we should have selected our top 5 priorities. We need the board to determine the 5 priorities.

Don Toy: I thought Alicia had started off with a stakeholder survey. What's going on with that? That may be a good foundation to start with.

Peter Woo: We do have an item for the priorities. It wasn't actually a budget process. There may be a budget allocation already for the project we want to do, so we need to cooperate with our council district and with Jan Perry, Antonio Villaraigosa and with Ed Reyes. We have to deal with that.

Edmund SooHoo: You're referring to two different budget processes, the city budget processes and our own budget process.

Peter Woo: Yes, our budget is on \$50,000 a year.

Dominic Erhler: We may not get anything from the city, but it's worth the effort.

Peter Woo: the City Budget is 4 billion a year and they expect a big cut so there may be no money. So we need to identify what the stakeholder wants, even if we don't get the money this year, we may next year, and whether we get the money or not we need to identify what the stakeholder wants and support them. Back to the process: are we going to go out and asks people's opinion? Yes, we are. Do you think we should decide the top 5 priorities or should we have a general stakeholder meeting?

Jonathan Jerald: We did design a stakeholder survey. We only got a couple back and we didn't pursue it. I'm not sure what we should do. If everyone is happy we the survey we can get copies to everyone and they can pass them out. This is a good time to do it.

Peter Woo: I suggest that the Exec Comm should do the survey and get it done in time for the next Board Meeting so that not only the board has input but the community has input.

Don Toy: I think this is the right road, and I think Alicia and the Exec Comm needs some help, plus I think we should have a public meeting so we can decide the priority's there.

Peter Woo: Jonathan Jerald can

Jonathan Jerald: General Stakeholders meeting, bylaws say we have the stakeholders meeting in November.

Jose Luis Sedano: The bylaws call for a general stakeholder meeting in November at which time the nominating committee would name the stakeholders that would run in the election, however, there are still bylaws that need to be amended and we won't have to get everything done.

John Schultz: Let's do the obvious. The whole area needs a sense of beauty. We need more trees, we need to get rid of the rubbish, get rid of excess poles for electricity. We could begin the design of a beautiful park just below us.

Peter Woo: It has to be specific.

Jose Luis Sedano: People who know I'm on the HCNC have come up to me at the Goldline opening.

Father Giovanni: This is an opportunity. We know by experience we have a meeting and people will show up.

Where the people assemble we can pass out the survey. Offer written survey's, email surveys, etc.

Peter Woo: This whole process is about democracy. Politicians want numbers, they want people to show up. We can come up with a lot of different issues.

Kim Benjamin: John's right, we should just pick something. Leaders lead, they don't wait to hear from the community to act, they act and then incorporate the public views as they go along. The CBID have done street lighting and cleanup and it's not enough. Leaders lead. We should get on with it and pick 3 or 4 sample projects and adjust as you hear from the public, but start the process.

Peter Woo: sometimes democracy delays the process but this is the process the NC gave us.

Charlie Woo: 30 of us, each of us pass out 7 then we have 210 surveys, and someone will do 70 surveys. What is a fair formula?

Peter Woo: We need to come up with a formula to have better representation.

Alan Kumamoto: I'm concerned that we include stakeholders in the process.

Peter Woo: We want to come up with a formula that represents all the areas, not just a few. We have to have an equitable way to do this.

Motion [Don Toy, Alan Kumamoto]: Empower the Executive Committee to adjust the Stakeholders survey, each board member will see that a minimum of 7 surveys get filled out by stakeholders, and to be given back to the Executive Committee to organize and present, to the board,; to have a stakeholder meeting for feedback, that we allow each neighborhood to hold their own stakeholder meeting for input, and each area would be responsibility for their own stakeholder meeting if they desire to have one.

Vote: Unanimous

Alan Kumamoto: First we have to get the process, than we have to get the issues, and then we'll have to weigh each because we're charged with all the areas, not just one.

Kim Benjamin: I like don's idea, lets get more input, not less

Public Comments: None

7. Treasurer's Budget Report: Status of availability of funding (Howard Nishimura)

Howard Nishimura. We were approved 2 weeks ago, but I'm getting confused as to what period of time we are allowed to spend this money in. We submitted back in June, so started June, July, and August. So if anyone is going to submit for reimbursement they will have to give me the receipts. I have \$500 for reimbursement but will have to go to the general membership for receipts over \$1,000.

Peter Woo: The budget process is cumbersome and I'd like to thank Howard for is hard work.

Don Toy: I compliment Howard also. We approved administration costs and I'm wondering what the status is of the other half of the budget?

Peter Woo: This is still new and experimental. We don't know where we spend the money or how we'll spend. We don't have experience from before. We don't want to overspend or under spend.

Don Toy: We need to move on in the process as to what else we are going to do with the budget. We need to have a budget committee meeting with Howard to work out the details.

Howard Nishimura: We will have one member from each community and I will call a meeting sometime next week. If you want to buy supplies, like at Office Depot, I'm near the Office Depot near 2nd, and I have the card so you can come get the card from me.

Handed out the approval letter for the City of Los Angeles.

Edmund SooHoo: is there some type of approval process we should be aware of?

Jonathan Jerald: There is a bylaw process: the budget and finance committee can make disbursements for up to \$50 dollars, for up to \$1,000, the Exec committee can approve. Over a \$1,000 the general membership needs to vote and approve the expenditure. I think we need to look at this as a bylaw change and change it to the full approval of the Board.

Alan Kumamoto: I think this needs to go back to the bylaws committee and start separating out what is a bylaw and what is a policy.

Motion [Peter Woo, Jonathan Jerald]: Request that Howard forma a budget committee consisting of one member from each community and that the community if tasked with reviewing the bylaws and recommending to the bylaws committee any changes it deems appropriate expenditure of funds.

Vote: Unanimous

8. Discussion and Action: Parker Center Resolution in Support of Little Tokyo, Arts District and the Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Series of Charettes put on by Jan Perry's office, Jonathan Jerald, Leslie Ito Wong and Alan Kumamoto carried the ball. The jail has been taken off the table. Not 100% official but wasn't even part of plan at the Charette.

Leslie Ito Wong: there are 3 other sites being considered for the jail: The first is on the Southeast corner of Judge John Aliso, and the second is next door to Center of the Arts, and the third site is the Northeast corner at Temple. First two sites are unacceptable.

Kim Benjamin: not a choice when we don't want any of the three sites. The HCNC should take a stand.

Motion [Jonathan Jerald, Don Toy]: Rewrite the HCNC resolution to include the views expressed at the Charrette and to support Jan Perry.

Vote: Unanimous

9. Discussion and Action on proposed bylaw change that would permit the board to seat the non-profit candidates who were denied seats subsequent to the last election

Proposed additions to the bylaws were read (attached)

George Poon: thanks Kelly for proposal, very fair to the candidates who were denied seats and thinks it's an equitable proposal.

Tom Minkler: Adding 7 makes 42 on the board but I'd like to see the people who were denied seats seated.

Sue Ching Fong: I don't know how to make a speech. What can I say? I support George Poon. I agree to his election.

King Yan Wong: I'm King Wong. I support Mr. Soo Hoo.

Yan Kan Ping Lee: I'm Cantonese. I support Mr. Soo Hoo, I speak Cantonese.

David Pefzold: The council will seat the people who weren't seated before and when their terms are up the seat will no longer exist and if this is so that takes the relevance of the seat away. You must bring them back and retain their positions as well. It does make a bigger board but the issues can be resolved further down the road. What Mr. Soo Hoo has written is very eloquent.

Liane SooHoo: I agree with David Pefzold. We all came together under the impression that the board would be representing the public, me. 40 people are a lot of people on the board. The public has spoken and I think we need to be heard and not feel like we're not represented. The people who lost their seats need to be reseated.

Phi Lou: I voted in the HCNC election and believe that it was formed to give us a voice and I was very disappointed when the people lost their seats. The public should be heard and the seats should be reinstated but we should also talk about their seats being retained.

John Tor: I want to express my support for the bylaw change. It won't go away until what was wrong is made right again. We need to reseate the people who lost their seats, even if it makes the board bigger. More representation is better. I support this.

Catherine Vu: I was one of the individuals who were removed. Thanks to the people who spoke. We're 8 months past the election and still haven't resolved this. The issue is the two different interpretations. It's a great idea to bring to two interpretations together. Here we not only have one non-profit seat for each area but also the at-large seats. I support Kelly and thank him for his hard work.

Lung Yee: I have heard the speech made by Mr. SooHoo. I believe everybody's opinion is correct.

General Discussion

Kim Benjamin: I don't understand the scope of the bylaw change? Keep the people who are on the board already and then add 6 seats?

Kelly Soo Hoo: Everybody keeps their seats.

Charlie Woo: 5 seats are being disputed, and you are adding 6 seats?

Don Toy: This is not about personalities, but about the seats. The seats were suppose to be at-large, meaning it doesn't matter what district. DONE interpreted them to make them one from each district. So this says have both, 6 non-profit at-large and 1 non-profit from each district.

Kim Benjamin: Bylaws were very specific saying the non-profits would be distributed among the districts, meaning one from each district.

Al Soo-Hoo: 3 key things: Vacancies, By-Law Addition and

Jonathan Jerald: the vacancies is congruent so suggest we deal with the Bylaw changes.

Don Toy: that's fine, but I'd point out that Kelly worked hard to address the vacancies that we had talked about and was also directed by DONE so that's why the Article 4 committee addressed the vacancies.

Jonathan Jerald: thought it very possible that the Bylaw amendment would take care of the vacancies and that's what we should be addressing now.

Motion [Alan Kumamoto, Don Toy]: Accept the first paragraph under Vacancies, General, with the added verbiage that "in the event of a tie for nominations then the tie would be voted on by the whole board" as the procedure for filling the vacant seat. [general discussion]

Vote: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstain: 1 [have 22, need 2/3rds to pass to need 16 to pass

10. Discussion and Action on proposed methods to fill the three empty seats in Solano Canyon, Victor Heights, and El Pueblo

11. Report on Senior Forum scheduled for August 8th at Chinatown Branch of L.A. Public Library

12. Report on neighborhood council requirements with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act

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

Will continue the Board meeting next week.

14. Adjournment – Continuing the meeting until next week, Tuesday at 7:30pm