

OFFICERS
Charlie Woo, President
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



HISTORIC CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL
C/O Mega Toys
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13th 7:30 pm

Maryknoll Center, 222 S. Hewitt Street

(Between Second & Third Streets, two blocks east of Alameda in Little Tokyo/Arts District)

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 within the Board's 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 are requested to fill out a Speaker's Card and submit it to the Secretary. The Agenda is posted for public review at Bloom's General Store at 716 Traction Ave, Chinatown Public Library 639 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, 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. Call to Order

HCNC President Charlie Woo called the meeting to order at 7:53pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: 1Dominic Ehrler, 2Mamie Hong, 3Jonathan Jerald, 4Rene Jovel, 5Joan Lee, 6Kam Lee, 7Jose Luis Sedano, 8Edmund SooHoo, 9Don Toy, 10Linda Wang, 11Joe Wong, 12Charlie Woo, 13Peter Woo, 14Danny Young, 15Gordon Yu, 16Al Domasin, 17Phi Luu, 18Brian Kito, 19Al Soo-Hoo, 20Kelly SooHoo, 21Mary Amason, 22Giovanni Bizzotto, 23Tim Keating, At 9:26pm: 24John Schutz voted in.

Excused Absences: Kim Benjamin, Alicia Brown, Ne Hay Tom, Peter Lau, Nick Constantini, Father Howard Fink, Alan Kumomoto, Howard Nishimura,

Resignation: Leslie Ito-Wong

Also Present: Kim Goldsworthy, Anne Walrath, John Schutz, Maria Lam Lee, Kan Lee, Tom Minkler

Speakers: Susan Wong of Councilman Reyes' office, Michael Tuck (Building Inspector) & Jesse Acosta of LADBS (LA Dept of Building & Safety), George Yu (Executive Director of the Chinatown Business District), Eric Kurimura (Nishihonganji Buddhist Temple), George Poon.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

Change Peter Lau's vote to 9 and correct his name on page 3. Minutes approved (Don Toy, Jonathan Jerald)

4. Discussion and Action: Proposed Plans for New Parker Center (Jonathan Jerald: 10 minutes)

Jonathan Jerald briefly explained the different plans they are looking at. Eric Kurimura (Nishihonganji Buddhist Temple) spoke briefly about the Temple's problems with any plan that puts the police facility next to the Temple. They support the HCNC resolution. Brian Kito (business owner on 1st St in Little Tokyo and also on non-profit Little Tokyo Community Council): LTCC having a meeting tomorrow to analyze the three plans, the Community Council wants to take a fair position, a lot of businesses in Little Tokyo survive on the lunch business that Parker Center brings. Would like the HCNC to rate the three plans. Thinks the LTCC and the HCNC resolutions should not conflict with each other. Edmund SooHoo feels that the LTCC should rate the plans and then the HCNC could support their position. The LTCC is leaning toward A1 as the number one plan. Someone commented that the Mayor's plan has been thrown off the table because Jan Perry's office is not supporting it. Peter Woo wants to focus on the site in Little Tokyo and keeping the Police Headquarters' out of Little Tokyo and support the Mayor's plan. Jonathan Jerald said it's the presence of the huge government building facilities that makes for a dead zone in the evening and that they need to develop commercial properties in ways that enhance the community.

HCNC President Charlie Woo regrets that we have to vote on the eve of the LTCC's decision but if the HCNC waits we miss the opportunity to take a stand as the City Council is voting in the next few weeks. Jonathan Jerald told the board that the Broadway

Building plan (the Mayor's Plan) is the best plan and the one the HCNC should vote for. He's been on the steering committee for the Parker Center for a year and there is a lot of support for the Broadway Building plan (the Mayor's plan). Don Toy wanted to know what would happen if we took Brian's recommendation and wait until next month. Jonathan Jerald reiterated that the possibility that the vote will happen before next month's meeting is better than 50%. Brian Kito asked how many times we have worked to deadline only to have the City come up with new proposals and in fact the community actually came up with a plan C? Jonathan Jerald told the board that the council cannot delay any longer, in order to get the Q money for construction they have to vote within the next few weeks. The City is past their deadline and one of the reasons they're past their deadline is because they have been trying to work with the community. Jonathan Jerald again recommends the HCNC should support the proposal that does the least damage to the Little Tokyo community and that would be the Broadway Bldg plan.

Motion: 1. The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council hereby resolves that it supports the proposal of Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn to relocate the police headquarters facility from its present site in Little Tokyo to a new permanent location at the remodeled TransAmerica complex at 12th and Broadway with the proviso that the city remains committed to building a public parking structure on Judge John Aiso Street to serve the needs of the Little Tokyo commercial district.

2. In the event that the police headquarters facility is located at the TransAmerica complex, the HCNC further resolves to support the mayor's commitment to see that the Mangrove property is developed in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Little Tokyo and Arts District communities. (Jonathan Jerald, Peter Woo)

Vote For 8 Against 7 Abstain 5 - Motion Passes

5. Discussion and Action: Chinatown Merchants Displays (Guest Speaker, George Yu: 15 minutes)

Michael Tuck told the HCNC board that they have over 400 cases in Chinatown with over 200 closed but that Chinatown is not singled out, the Pace Teams go all over the city at the requests of neighborhoods, fire departments, etc. Fashion District has more cases than Chinatown. He praised Chinatown Merchants for their cooperation and respect. George Yu told the board that the Chinatown BID held 4 meetings for merchants to educate them about Code Enforcement Visits from the City. George Poon made remarks about the concerns of the small business owners. Some received citations but since then they have been working with Councilman Reye's office and they are cooperating with the Building inspectors. The merchants think they should be allowed to have 2 foot displays which they've told the Councilman's office. They also want the Council office to look at the hardships of the small business owners. They are only doing business on Saturday and Sunday and the 2 foot displays are very important. The 2 foot displays are from the shop entrance, 2 foot beyond the entrance but will still observe the safety rules. George told the board that the Councilman is very receptive to what they are saying. They are also asking the HCNC to write a letter to Councilman Reyes in support of the merchants and the 2 foot displays. George Poon asks the HCNC to please pass a resolution to send a letter to Councilman Reyes.

Motion to Support the merchants of Chinatown in their struggle with the City to utilize a reasonable amount of sidewalk for merchandising with due consideration for health and safety and to send a letter to Councilman Reyes. (Don Toy, Dominic Ehrler). General Discussion.

Vote For 20 Against 0 Abstain 4 – Motion Passes

6. Report: The Siqueiros Mural (Jose Luis Sedano: 5 minutes)

Jose Luis Sedano spoke briefly about the Siqueiros Mural which was painted 72 years ago in 1932. It was immediately whitewashed and over time the whitewash has worn off so it is becoming visible. Now they are working to uncover it completely so people can see it. It cannot be restored because it is too damaged. If it were restored it would no longer be original but a new painting. It will be preserved with a shelter to keep the sun off. This is an historic mural with a statement about the Mexican Community, it's about censorship. It is an important statement. Hoover's administration sent hundreds of thousands of Latinos to Mexico, many who were born in the United States and had never been to Mexico. It will bring more tourists to El Pueblo. Jose passed out the Arroyo Seco Council resolution. See Appendix A for the complete Resolution.

Motion: We ask that Mayor Hahn expedite official procedures involved in accomplishing the preservation of this historic work of art in order to retain city monies that have been allocated (\$1.07 million) and the generous grants and private donations offered by the Getty Conservation Institute and affiliates. (Jose Luis Sedano, Jonathan Jerald)

Vote For Unanimous – Motion Passes

7. Discussion and Action: Appointment and Action: Appointment of Board members to fill Vacant Victor Heights Seat

Dominic: The Victor Heights Contingent is asking the Board to seat John Schutz in the vacant Victor Heights Residence position.

Motion to seat John Schutz in the Victor Heights Resident Seat (Dominic Ehrler, Al Domasin)

Vote For Unanimous - Motion Passes

8. Discussion and Action: Restructuring The Cultural Affairs Department (Jose-Luis Sedano: 10 minutes) Report – covered in item #6.

9. Discussion: Committee Appointments and Committee Structure (Charlie Woo)

Some committees are standing committees and are in the bylaws. One such is the Election Committee and another is the Bylaw Committee. Jose Luis Sedano will continue as the Election Committee Chairperson and Jonathan Jerald will continue as the Bylaw Committee Chairperson.

Dominic is going to pass around signup sheets to sign up for the two committees. We want to have one person per community on each committee. If we don't get one person from each community signed up for the committee then the HCNC President will appoint them.

10. Board Member Attendance (Charlie Woo)

It is extremely important that we get full participation. The bylaws specify that if you miss 3 meetings within 12 months the board could ask you to step down. The bylaw committee will be looking at this and making recommendations but for now it stands.

Leslie Ito-Wong has resigned from the HCNC so Little Tokyo can post a notice for a new board member.

11. Additional Items

Would like to see a youth conference and Rene Jovel will give a report next meeting.

Agenda Items: members can add agenda items during the Additional Items on the agenda and can also contact the president to have agenda items put on the agenda, and can also be put on a wait list and moved up accordingly. Items sitting for a time will be given priority.

Agenda items: We need to have a treasurer's report each month. Please add to agenda.

We need to look at the committees in the bylaws and either put them into action or remove them from the bylaws.

Treasurer's report: we passed an administrative budget and were going to revisit to pass a full budget and it's been a year and we need to complete this.

Little Tokyo: We need to find the perpetrators of the Hate Incidents occurring in Little Tokyo, Brian Kito has flyers to pass out.

Emergency Preparedness Fair: April 3, 10, 17, 18, 24, and 25th.

Rene Jovel was in Guys and Dolls at Cathedral High School.

12. Public Comment

13. Adjournment

President Charlie Woo adjourned meeting at 10:03pm

Appendix A – Siqueiros 1932 Mural Resolution

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WHEREAS, the HCNC is in accord with the El Pueblo Park Community and the Getty Conservation Institute in recognizing the David Alfaro Siqueiros 1932 mural, America Tropical as one of the great artistic icons honoring Los Angeles’ Latino community; and is the genesis of an international art movement and one of the great artistic icons of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, "America Tropical" is the first grand-scale public art mural in the United States to create a public space by being painted on an ordinary exterior wall, and as such has tremendous significance to the history of Los Angeles and to public art, and

WHEREAS, the HCNC values Mayor Hahn’s vision of Los Angeles as a center for Arts and Culture; and

WHEREAS, as the historic El Pueblo de Los Angeles Park Community, we believe that the conservation of this neglected treasure will bring increased tourism and tax dollars to Downtown Los Angeles, Olvera Street and surrounding districts, respectively the historic center and birthplace of Los Angeles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the HCNC urges Mayor Hahn to support the Getty Conservation Institute in their three stated objectives:

- To make the mural both physically and historically accessible to visitors by constructing a viewing platform, and by installing an interpretive center that places the mural in its historical and artistic context.
- To construct a shelter that will ensure protection of the mural in the future;
- To complete the final conservation - consolidation and cleaning - of the mural;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HCNC officially requests the Mayor Hahn expedite administrative procedures involved in accomplishing the preservation and display improvements of this historic work of art in order to retain city monies and the generous grants and private donations offered by the Getty Conservation Institute and affiliates.

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