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Charlie 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



HISTORIC CULTURAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

The Downtown Playhouse, Vignes, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Arts District  
(address is 929 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 105, but the entrance is around the corner on Vignes -- for  
directions see [www.downtownplayhouse.org/location.html](http://www.downtownplayhouse.org/location.html))

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 Project Coordinator, Melvin Canas at 323 224 2316.

1. Call to Order: President Charlie Woo called meeting to order at 8pm.  
Al Domasin introduced Rev Kevin Woo and Elder Ahn from the Holy Hills Church. They want the HCNC's support for a hearing on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at the Planning Commission and they need written support 10 days before the hearing. The church sold the property air rights to a church member with the understanding that it would be used for senior housing but then the church member sold the property to developers without this condition to build for assisted senior housing. The church has 53 parking spaces in front and 95 parking spaces on the side. The original plan for assisted housing called for one parking space per unit. Now the developer's want to do 71 Artist Live/work spaces and not build the originally designated senior assisted living, and it would mean 2 parking spaces per unit would be needed for this use, and this would absorb all the church's parking, leaving the church with effectively no parking for its existing facilities. The church owns the ground, the developer's own the air rights and believe they own the parking lot usage. The Zoning administrator already upheld the church's position for parking.

President Charlie Woo feels there is no time to put on next agenda for next meeting which would be Oct 12, the day before the hearing. Cannot take action at this meeting because was not on the agenda. Suggests HCNC members go to the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Suggested that we refer it to the action committee and possibly call a special meeting. Parliamentarian Kim Goldsworthy says if posted appropriately can refer to committee and put on agenda for next HCNC Board meeting. President Charlie Woo referred the item to the Action Committee.

2. Roll Call: Charlie Woo, Peter Woo, Dominic Erhler, Kim Benjamin, Tim Keating, Danny Young, Don Toy, Edmund SooHoo, Mamie Hong, Joe Wong, Al Domasin, Brian Kito, Ron Fong, Jonathan Jerald, Mary Amason, Howard Nishimura, Howard Fink, Alan Kumamoto (18) Also present: Kim Goldsworthy, Parliamentarian; Anne Walrath, recorder.

3. Approval of Minutes of previous Board Meeting

Aug 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes corrections: Roll Call: Edmund SooHoo was present at meeting and was left off the roll call. Motion to approve minutes with correction. (Peter Woo, Dominic Erhler) Approved.

Special Aug 24<sup>th</sup> minutes: Motion to Amend minutes to reflect that there was no quorum and no action could be taken. (Jonathan Jerald, Tim Keating) Motion passes.

4. President's opening remarks

No remarks

5. Budget Report: proposed process for budgeting special projects: discussion and possible action.

Howard gave budget report – see appendix A. The main point is that the HCNC spent a lot of money on administration last year. The first column is from the prior year, the second column is for this year and needs to be approved for the HCNC to be able to spend the funds.

Motion to approve the budget (Dominic Erhler, Brian Kito) Motion passes.

General discussion. Clarification of Neighborhood Outreach Programs and Neighborhood Community programs. The Outreach program money is for overall programs and the Neighborhood Community programs are for the specific communities. Typo on line 23 third column, says \$2000 and should be \$13,094.40

6. Inclusionary Zoning: discussion – Kim Benjamin and Ron Fong.

Kim Benjamin: The intention of Inclusionary zoning is to be Inclusionary for all types of housing, especially affordable housing. Everyone should have a clean, safe place to live no matter what they can afford. Inclusionary Housing is an effort in Los Angeles to have all kinds of housing, including affordable housing. We support the idea of housing for everyone but not sure we're ready to support the proposed Inclusionary Zoning ordinance as there are serious flaws.

Ron Fong: Kim and I agree that the issue is still in a state of flux and we'll see another version of it soon. Agree that at this time we don't want to have an extensive discussion on it, not yet. Ron Fong believes we need affordable housing, especially for the workforce, and Inclusionary zoning is one way to make sure this happens. Affordable housing: \$18,000 to 60,000 yearly incomes who are being priced out of living in Los Angeles. People like nurses, police, firemen etc.

Affordable housing hasn't done the job that it was suppose to do, something is wrong with the way it's being done.

Inclusionary Zoning would not address existing buildings or adaptive reuse, it would only address new development. Inclusionary housing also is not limited to rental units and this is a real problem.

There's been a 20% increase in the number of cities who have passed an Inclusionary Zoning ordinance but there has been no significant increase in the number of affordable housing units in these areas.

No clear answer on when this ordinance may go to City Council. A number of Neighborhood Councils have taken a position on this, most have been against it with 2 for it. Some of the Neighborhood Councils who have taken a position against are not against Inclusionary Housing per se but have problems with the ordinance as it currently stands. We will take this matter up again in the future. Kim noted Mayor Han has a proposal to use City owned excess land for affordable housing and other projects. This is a good idea and one the HCNC should support.

#### 7. Staffing election and bylaws committees: discussion and possible action

We need a representative from each community to sit on both the Election and the Bylaws Committees. The Election Committee needs to be set up now in order to get ready for the next election.

Election Committee: Victor Heights: Al Domasin; Solano Canyon: Danny Young; Chinatown: TBA; Little Tokyo: Brian Kito; Arts District: Tim Keating; El Pueblo: TBA  
Bylaws Committees: Victor Heights: John Schutz; Solano Canyon: TBA; Chinatown: TBA; Little Tokyo: Ron Fong Arts District: Alan Kumamoto El Pueblo: Howard Fink.

#### 8. Proposed bylaw change: rotating location of meetings: discussion for possible action to be taken at next meeting

HCNC is having difficulty finding a different meeting place every month and we are not meeting in all our communities like Victor Heights. Most neighborhood councils have settled on one meeting place every month and have found that public participation has increased. Jonathan will take to committee and have report prepared for next month for action. Basically the HCNC wants to release itself from a bylaw we are constantly in violation of.

General Discussion.

#### 9. Additional Items

Arts District and Filmmakers: Developed a set of rules and updated the special use conditions with City Council Member Jan Perry. Are now in crisis mode because the ADIC has refused to put the rules into action. We want to ask the City Council to impose a moratorium on filming until the rules are implemented. Add as Agenda item for next month's meeting.

Peter Woo would like the Action Committee to look at the city using vacant lots for affordable housing either with the Inclusionary Housing issue or separate from it and then have the HCNC take a position on it. FYI: Neither the City of Los Angeles nor the County of Los Angeles have up to date lists of what they own. Ron Fong will draft a motion and put something on the next agenda.

There are two matching funds projects in Victor Heights that Victor Heights wants to get money for from the HCNC and wants this added to next month's agenda.

Is anyone announcing our accomplishments to the larger community? We contribute to DONE newsletter and give press releases to Channel 35.

Edmund SooHoo, Ron Fong and Al Kumamoto were working on a definition of non-profit. would like to discuss in appropriate committees and vote on at general meeting. Jonathan reported that DONE senior staffer, Rita Moreno, advised definition can be a simple motion and require a bylaw change.

We didn't participate in the Mayor's Budget Meeting and it was reported that we were very critical of the Mayor's Budget process. We found it ineffectual last year so thought it was pointless this year.

Kim Benjamin brought up the point that having elections every year is taking a lot of time, energy and money that could be going to public and community service and issues. Some of our communities don't even know we're here. Need a newsletter and more Outreach programs. Kim suggested we change the Bylaws and have elections every other year and not do an election in 2005 but do it in 2006, 2008 and so on. President Woo wants to know if there is enough interest to look at this. General response was to support the proposal. To be discussed in Bylaws committee and voted on at next meeting.

#### 10. Public Comment

At beginning of meeting

#### 11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:44pm