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Kim Benjamin, 1st Vice President
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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
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Hellman Quon Building, on the Plaza, El Pueblo (next to the Las Angelitas office by the fire station – parking in the Los Angeles Street lot)

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 the meeting to order at 8:10pm, a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
Charlie Woo, Kim Benjamin, Alan Kumamoto, Rene Jovel, Danny Young, Alicia Brown, John Schutz, Howard Fink, Al SooHoo, Tim Keating, Dominic Ehrler, Jonathan Jerald, Edmund Soo-Hoo, Mary Amason, Ron Fong, Jose Luis Sedano, Al Domasin (17)
3. Approval of Minutes of previous Board Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes of Sept 14, 2004. (Kim Benjamin, René Jovel) Minutes Approved.
4. President's opening remarks
No remarks.
5. Inclusionary Zoning: discussion and possible action
Inclusionary Zoning to be discussed at City Council in the spring of 2005 so there is nothing to respond to at present.
6. Renewable Energy: discussion and possible action
Tabled for present.
7. Proposed Bylaw Change: changing the election calendar from annual to once every two years: discussion and possible action
2 Election Reform Proposals, attached as appendix A. Jonathan Jerald went over the proposals and told the Board that the Bylaw Committee recommends Proposal 1, and that the second proposal was drafted for consideration after consulting DONE staff.

General Discussion and Public Comment.

Motion to approve Proposal 1. (Al Kumamoto, John Schutz) Motion failed to gain 2/3 majority and doesn't pass.

Motion to approve Proposal 2. (Kim Benjamin, Al SooHoo) Motion passes (14 yes, 3 no)

Amendment Change:

Article VI

Officers

Item 3:

Original text:

~~The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for three year terms; the terms of the Board of Directors shall be staggered so that one third of the members are elected each year. No Director(s) shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years in any office of the HCNC.~~

Proposed new text:

“The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for four-year terms; the terms of the Board of Directors shall be staggered so that approximately one-half of the members are elected every other year (16 in one election year, seventeen in the next). No Director(s) shall serve more than eight (8) consecutive years as a board member of the HCNC.”

8. Proposed bylaw change: deleting the requirement to rotate meetings equally among all six communities: discussion and possible action

General Discussion and Public Comment.

Motion to delete the bylaw requirement to rotate meetings equally among all six communities.

Delete Article 5, item 2, second sentence: “Meeting locations shall be evenly rotated among each community.”

(Jonathan Jerald, René Jovel) Motion passes.

Amendment Change:

Article V: Meetings and Quorums

Item 2:

Original text:

~~The Board of Directors of the HCNC shall meet at least six times a year. Meeting locations shall be evenly rotated among each community.~~

Proposed New Text:

The Board of Directors of the HCNC shall meet at least six times a year.

9. Victor Heights request for matching funds for community projects: discussion and possible action

Al Domasin: Neighborhood Watch meeting is tomorrow night. One thing on the agenda is the Neighborhood Beautification Program, we're 85% complete with our application. We've gotten a written okay but still need a formal okay, its a Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant. They will also help fund by paying \$15/hour for volunteer labor. Neighborhood Councils may provide funds in the form of a grant. Victor Heights has 3 Matching Fund projects and one Neighborhood Watch project: Community naming project, want to focus on Victor heights name by having a mural that says Welcome to Victor heights: 2nd project is a hardscape project, there is an area that has become a neighborhood dumping ground. We want to address it by putting some shrubs and getting more dumpsters. 3rd project is street furniture: benches in the area for

people who walk to use for rest. 4th project, the Neighborhood Watch project is Neighborhood Watch signs around the community. Victor Heights is requesting funding from the HCNC for these projects. Since we have funding in the HCNC budget for community projects Victor Heights would like to access these funds. The range we are requesting is: \$450 to \$500 for each of these 4 projects. If we get approval then we will submit the invoices to Howard Nishimura, the treasurer.

General Discussion

Motion to approve funds, not to exceed \$500 per project, projects: #1: Community Naming Project, #2: Hardscape Project, #3: Street Furniture, #4: Community Neighborhood Watch signs which say “co-sponsored by the HCNC. Subject to winning the matching grants, and submissal of appropriate documentation to the treasurer. (Alicia Brown, Kim Benjamin) Motion passes.

Suggestion for future funding proposals to be in writing and to go to the finance committee for consideration and to be put on the HCNC Board Meeting Agenda. (Kim Benjamin, Jonathan Jerald)

10. Arts District: request for funds for community projects: discussion and possible action
Tabled for present.

11. Definition of Non-Profits: discussion and possible action
Tabled for present.

12. Holy Hills Church Request for Support: discussion and possible action
Motion to support the church and present the HCNC letter at the meeting tomorrow. (Dominic Ehrler, Kim Benjamin) Letter attached, appendix B.

13. Additional Items
No additional items.

14. Public Comment
No public comment.

15. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.

Appendix A:

Election Reform Proposal 1:

One third of the seats would be up for election every two years. years.

Terms would last six years.

1. Eleven board members would have their current terms in office extended by a year; eleven would be extended by two years and eleven by three years. That means some board members (those whose seats are up for election in 05) would serve a first term of only three years and be denied the opportunity of running for a second term. Board members whose seats are up in 06 would be extended 2 years to '08 and board members whose terms are up in '07 would be granted three years and would serve an initial term of eight years.

2. Under city rules, no one may serve no more than eight consecutive years as board members on a neighborhood council. Under this plan, therefore, no board member would be allowed to run for a second term.

In order to most accurately reflect the relative terms as they stand now, we would preserve the order of the three groups established in the previous drawing:

Group A is up for election in 2005, Group B in 2006 and Group C in 2007. Under this plan, Group A would be extended one year until 2006. Group B would be extended two years (until 2008) and Group C would be extended three years to 2010.

Election Reform Proposal 2:

Approximately half the seats are up for election terms every two years. Terms would last four years.

1. Seven board members would have their terms extended by a year.
2. board members may serve up to eight consecutive years (two terms)

Turning three groups of eleven each into two (one of 16 and one of 17):

We currently have three groups, Group A is up for election in 2005, Group B in 2006 and Group C in 2007.

In order to make the fewest possible changes, the members of group B would draw straws. Seven would be moved into the C group (adding a year to their initial term) and the others would be combined with the A Group (the length of their term would not change). All the members of A and C group would get an extra year.

The 16 seats in the AB group would be up for election in 06 and the 17 seats in the BC group would be up for election in 08.

Note: The City advises the following should also be included regardless of which plan is adopted:

Board members may not serve more than eight concurrent years on the board of a neighborhood council. In the event a board member would exceed eight concurrent years on the board, that board member must resign and the board declare that seat vacant.

That means board members whose initial term is greater than four years could run for a second term, but if he or she wins, than that board member would have to resign after eight years on the board.

Appendix B

To: The East Los Angeles Area Planning Commission

Parking is an extremely volatile issue in Victor Heights and the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council. The proposal to convert the former 8-floor Metropolitan Water District Building, contained within and abutting the existing Holy Hill Church, into 71 apartments is flawed.

Holy Hill Church currently has access to a limited number of parking slots which is adequate for the Church's needs at current attendance levels. However if 71 slots are taken away, as the proposal states, the community would suffer enormously from overflow parking. This overflow would result not only during church services, but daily, as street parking is more convenient to the apartments than the Holy Hill lot.

Holy Hill Church has had some run-ins with the neighbors in the past due to overflow parking on adjacent streets. This problem was solved several years ago by the placement of street signs prohibiting church parking 'off premises' during services. Since then, Holy Hill Church has been an outstanding neighbor.

Victor Heights is often used by media production companies for filming. Holy Hill Church has been most helpful in allowing their parking area to be used for the media vehicles, when available. This saves dozens of street parking spots for the residents of the community who otherwise would have to park across Sunset Blvd and walk up a 100 foot hill. This benefit would be lost if the Church lost full control of its lot.

Finally, if the proposal were adopted, it would put Holy Hill Church in a position where it may be unable to continue serving its own community without an additional financial burden, which it can ill afford.

The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council urges The Los Angeles Zoning Administration to deny the permit to the developer unless 71 new, immediately-accessible parking-slots are created, and not borrowed from Holy Hill Church.

Charlie Woo
President
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council