

OFFICERS

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Brian Kito, 1st Vice President
Martin Farfan, 2nd Vice President
Alan Kumamoto, 3rd Vice President
Richard Nozaki, 4th Vice President
Jose Luis Sedano, Secretary
David Nagano, Treasurer
Alicia Brown, Historian

H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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General Board Meeting Minutes - Approved
Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Public Library, Chinatown Branch, 639 N Hill St, LA CA 90012

Reception with Councilman Ed Reyes 6:00pm

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 HCNC 305 E 1st St; Bloom's General Store 716 Traction Ave; Chinatown Public Library 639 N Hill St; La Luz del Dia 107 Paseo de la Plaza; Little Tokyo Koban 307 E 1st Street; Solano Elementary School 615 Solano Ave; and Eastside Market 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 & Roll Call – Meeting called to order by Kim Benjamin at 6:30pm.
Roll Call. Board Members: Alfonso Marquez, Alicia Brown, Ann Kim, Brian Kito, Charlie Woo, Craig Haven, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund SooHoo, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, Joe Wong, Jose Sedano, Kam Lee, Kim Benjamin, Martin Farfan, Peter Lau, Richard Nozaki, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, and Yukiko Yamabata. Volunteer Staff: Anne Walrath Guests: Mike Fong, Sarai Molina, Munson Kwok, Dan Reza and Dominic Ehrler.
- 2) Councilman Ed Reyes – Swearing in of new officers
Councilman Ed Reyes could not make it, sent Mike Fong in his stead. Councilman Reyes will be invited to come to the next meeting to do the swearing in ceremony.
- 3) Councilman Ed Reyes – Looking ahead – what to expect 2007-8
Mike Fong says Councilman Ed Reyes congratulates the HCNC for all their hard work for the community and is sorry he couldn't be at the meeting.
- 4) Approval of Minutes January 30, 2007 – Jose Luis Sedano
Brian Kito made a motion to approve January 30, 2007 minutes and Alicia Brown seconded.
Minutes approved. Don Toy Abstained

Minutes of prior meeting to be circulated 7 days or more before next meeting- this to be done on best efforts basis only. Kam Lee would like bi-lingual agendas and minutes. Don Toy accepted the responsibility to arrange for the translation of the minutes into Chinese for community use and provide copies to other board members in Chinatown. He will let the board know what costs are involved before pursuing.

- 5) President's Report, Kim Benjamin
Introduced Anne Walrath and said she would be assisting the secretary and taking the minutes for the meeting. Informed the board members that from now on they'll have packets of pertinent documents each meeting. President Benjamin went over the contents of the packet for this meeting: Current meeting agenda; last month's agenda and draft of minutes; Guiding Principals for the HCNC for 2004/5; Done's HCNC Funding Statement for February 1, 2007; HCNC Election 2006 Final Official Canvas of Votes; HCNC Board Member

Roster; HCNC Bylaws (amended 7-21-06); Historic Highland Park NC sample of Proposal Funding policy/paperwork. Also brought copies of HCNC Financial reports.

Spoke about Historic Highland Park’s Funding for projects/programs as a sample package. David Nagano to work on Funding Proposal Forms for HCNC based on these.

Introduced Sarah Molina from DONE who is standing in for Melvin Canas.

Public Comments: From now on, anyone under 18 or a senior citizen may speak at beginning of meeting. Will open meeting for 10 minutes.

Munson Kwok: Gave his congratulations to the HCNC. He’s very excited and looking forward to good things. Jose Luis: Introduced Sky. She came by with roses for the newly elected HCNC Board Members.

We’re going to build a stakeholders email list to send announcements and to send out a quarterly newsletter.

Kim introduced the LABJ and the Downtown News as two newspapers for timely news on what’s happening in our community and encouraged the membership read them. Talked about an article on Pio Pico House.

Alicia Brown and Kim Benjamin working on a pocket park project with the city for Solano Canyon and wants to do more pocket park projects. Kim is potential donor for the pocket park, and is hoping to make happen with the Councilman’s help.

MTA call for projects: in effort to garner resources, there’s money coming from the CRA for public improvements. When items come up the HCNC will be asked to speak to projects. One project is the bridge at Spring Street but the HCNC wasn’t asked to participate. President Benjamin says the HCNC has an opportunity to participate and give the HCNC more voice.

Mike Fong: On Spring Street Bridge, says the city is looking to make the bridge safer and work with the property owner who will be affected. Also, the LA River master plan is available now and encourages membership to get involved. The LA river project is the entire river, 31 miles. Looking at the 20 – 25 year project to revitalize. HCNC to invite David Marquez to speak about the LA River Revitalization. March 15th is the CCAC meeting on LA River. Alicia Brown is on the LA River Revitalization Committee.

Grand Ave project has been approved by city council, 2400 + housing units along with mixed use, hotels, office, restaurant and more, \$2+ billion dollar project.

President Benjamin wants the HCNC to be aware of, and where appropriate, comment on projects and city policies that affect us. We’ll have a presentation at the next meeting.

President Benjamin met with Cheuk Choi, the principal of Castelar Elementary School regarding converting their library into additional classrooms and says it’s a complete mess. With 1200 and 2000 new units of housing being proposed in Chinatown, it will mean that over 100 to 300 new kids will be in need of LAUSD schooling as well as private school access. The HCNC can get involved in looking ahead here and request city and private resources be directed to these needs.

Charlie Woo explained about board member alternates and said that if there was an absent board member from a district an alternate from that district could sit and vote (for that meeting only).

- 6) Treasurers Report - Dominic Ehrler / David Nagano
 Dominic went over the Treasurer’s journal from inception up to today. Says the transition is complete and David Nagano is the new treasurer. Dominic will be closing out his credit card, it’s already voided and David will be getting a new one. Dominic says that we operate on a budget and he’ll send the budget on to President Benjamin and David Nagano.

David thanked Dominic and said he’d been very helpful. Noted in minutes that there is \$56,000 that the HCNC needs to spend before June or the HCNC will lose the funds. Referred to the HHP program application in packet as an example and says he’ll have ours by next meeting.

President Benjamin suggests we set up a budgeting process now and will meet with David Nagano to help set it up.

Alicia Brown also thanked Dominic publicly for all his help.

Don Toy would like to see a breakout of what's been spent and how it's been spent and in which district.

David Nagano sees potential problem between districts if some are more organized than others and they get money allocated. Howard Fink says they should feel bad if they don't organize and ask for money for their community. President Benjamin hopes it will motivate the districts to organize and ask for funds for projects for their community. Howard Nishimura added that originally we allocated like funds to each district, with additional monies to some districts who had a major project and when that happened, other districts would give up their funding to another district that time, and get more funding another time.

- 7) Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, Brian Kito. The HCNC has previously approved allocation of resources for projects. Little Tokyo: has 2 projects completely funded and spent, and working on a third. President Benjamin asked Ron Fong to do a report on LT projects. Brian Kito: \$2,000 donation for mural project which involved hundreds of volunteers, it's on parking lot structure wall. Also moved a landmark, a circle log shape with 3 scenes on it: before encampment, during, and after, allocated \$3, 231 to store. Third project is a brochure on historical monuments \$3,000. \$8231 altogether.

Solano Canyon: Dan Reza, Chairperson for Solano Canyon Beautification Project spoke on the Solano Canyon project. Project is a Monument sign. \$13,330.67 is the cost of the Monument. They don't have landscape costs yet, but will submit when he has them. It will be located by the Elysian Park Maintenance Hdqt. in Elysian Park and will be on public land. The Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park (CCSEP) has approved the project. He submitted his price paperwork to David Nagano. SC would like to have \$15,000 allocated from the HCNC.

Motion made by Alicia Brown to have HCNC approve the funding for the project. Howard Fink seconded. Unanimously approved.

Arts District: Lucy Jensen presented since Tim Keating could not attend the meeting. Approximately \$9,000 has already been allocated from HCNC for farmers market and the Uncommon Ground brochure. The new project will be a series of productions held at the Bedlam Arts Space. Arts District is asking for \$10,000 from HCNC and \$10,000 from LARABA. The project is intended as a demonstration project for an Art Center. They will also need \$1500 for advertising.

Farmer's Market project: Asking \$2500 to advertise new location for the Farmer's Market.

Total funding from HCNC would be \$14,000. President Benjamin asked for an Arts District Caucus asking HCNC for financial support for the Arts Center being established and to present a written presentation to the board at the next board meeting.

President Benjamin suggested that projects funded by HCNC should have signage saying "Funded by HCNC", there was general agreement. He also asked that presenters bring copies of their presentation for the whole board. He went over DONE procedure for payments, approved by the board, invoices submitted and approved by DONE by end of February. He would also like the board to think about leveraging the HCNC funds, citing an example of collaborating with other associations, like the Chinatown BID or the Arts District BID to help the districts. Also suggested having a consultant who knows how to access public funds. Brian Kito cited Little Tokyo wireless project and security cameras and the grants they received as another example of shared funding.

Don Toy suggests we come up with a process that will distribute more funds. President Benjamin suggested the HCNC work as a community to make sure all funds get allocated and spent, looking at where we can allocate the funds on various projects in the districts.

Brian will call a time and date for action committee to get together and have a meeting on distributing the funds.

- 8) Forming of Task Forces on issues and or projects and related actions, Martin Farfan. No Report.

- 9) Appointment of Committee Chairs and related action items, Kim Benjamin.
Wants to have smaller Committees, one chair and 2 members. And wants to have less board meetings and more committee meetings. Board will talk next month about having less board meetings. For example every other month- with committees to meet in alternate months and conduct business that will then rise to board for formal actions. This will concentrate energy on doing projects and implementing policy, not just meeting.
Committees for now:
Action committee: Brian Kito
Program Policies: Martin Farfan
Election Committee: Alan Kumamoto

- 10) Approval of HCNC Board Members Business Card Expense.
Motion to approve HCNC Board Members Bilingual Business Card Expense made by Don Toy and seconded by Joe Wong. Motion approved unanimously.
President Benjamin requests bilingual requests be submitted within 7 days.

- 11) Public Comments
Raymond Yu: Final announcement of 108th LA Lantern Festival, 2007, Saturday, Mar 3, 12pm – 7pm.

- 12) Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change.
Next month would be the 13th of March, Tuesday, 6:30pm. Will be at Reiki Kitchen, 455 third St, Tokyo Towers.

- 13) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

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