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Brian Kito, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Martin Farfan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Alan Kumamoto, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Richard Nozaki, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
Jose Luis Sedano, Secretary  
David Nagano, Treasurer  
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# H C N C

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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## Reception & General Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 6:30 p.m. Reikai's Kitchen, Tokyo Towers, 455 E 3rd St, LA CA 90013

### Reception with Councilwoman Jan Perry 7:00 pm to 7:30pm

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – Kim Benjamin  
Meeting called to order at 7:15pm. Roll Call: Al Soo-Hoo, Alan Kumamoto, Ann Kim, Brian Kito, Charlie Woo, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Gay Yuen, Edmund Soohoo, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, Jose Sedano, Joe Wong, Kam Lee, Kim Benjamin, Peter Woo, Richard Nozaki, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating, Yukiko Yamahata.  
Staff: Anne Walrath  
Guests: Jan Perry, Michael Fong, Melvin Canas.  
Absent: Alicia Brown, Alfonse Marquez, Martin Farfan, Ne Tom, Peter Lau.  
Vacant Seats: Resident Little Tokyo, Resident Victor Heights.  
New Board Member: John Sastow, Resident Arts District.

Jan Perry presented Charlie Woo with a Certificate of Merit. She spoke about the many things Charlie Woo has done for the community and his work with the HCNC as their president, saying this was one of the most effective neighborhood councils in Los Angeles.

- 2) Council woman Jan Perry – Swearing in of new officers  
Councilwoman Jan Perry swore in the new HCNC Board and then said a few words about the Neighborhood councils, saying how well the idea of the neighborhood councils was developing. She thanked the board for teaching the community that it should never be taken for granted and again thanked the HCNC for its effectiveness as a voice for the community.

- 3) Council woman Jan Perry – Looking ahead – what to expect 2007-8  
Councilwoman Perry spoke about the changing nature of downtown and some proposals coming up for review and said this district carries the major proportion of the industrial land. Downtown is the logical area to sustain mixed use growth. The City is working on developing downtown zoning for mixed use projects with residential and clean light industrial uses. Also working on transferring air rights at Staples center so can do more subsidized housing in exchange for a developer who wants more units. Said we need more housing and more support services, especially permanent support housing for people who are homeless and in recovery.

Mangrove site at 1<sup>st</sup> and Alameda. (KB asked for an update on what's going to happen.) the request for proposal will be out by the end of April. It's the direct result of the input from the community, this process was 2 years in the making. The document reflects what the community wanted. The main thing is to preserve the integrity of this community. This is one of the last few Japantowns in the country so it's very important that it's preserved and Councilwoman Perry said she made sure it was preserved in the RFP.

She also discussed Garcetti's plan for using sales tax increments for encouraging housing and the LA River project and Node of development.

Q and A: concentrated on cross walk at Omar and 3<sup>rd</sup> — said she will work with HCNC to resolve. Question about Neighborhood Council funding and specifically the HCNC perhaps getting more funding since we include 6 areas: Councilwoman Perry's response was that we're in a deficit and this is the best it's going to be.

4) Public Comments for youths and seniors: 10 minutes

Yukiko Yamahata and a few visitors made some remarks about the crosswalk at Omar and 3<sup>rd</sup> and the general consensus was that they very much wanted the crosswalk.

5) Approval of Minutes February 13, 2007 – Jose Luis Sedano

Don Toy brought up point regarding how to get minutes translated and cost involved in doing so. Melvin Canas said DONE does not do translation. Gay Yuen has grad students who can probably do for low price. For agenda and meeting announcements can do a template where you can plug in time and place. General discussion.

David Nagano said we have to do a new budget by June and asked Don Toy to help with budget for translation. Anne Walrath gave price paid for this meeting's translation as \$350 for 5 pages.

**Motion made by Alan Kumamoto to budget \$2500 for translation thru rest of fiscal year. Don Toy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion made by Charlie Woo to approve the minutes after adding Kam Lee's comment requesting bi-lingual agenda and minutes. Howard Fink seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of minutes: Don Toy wanted record to show that Kam Lee had asked for Chinese translations several times.

6) President's Report, Kim Benjamin

Thanked Anne Walrath for the new notebooks. Thanked Tom Minkler for his hard work on the website and asked the board members to go online and look at our website and see how we can make it better.

Spoke about Councilwoman Perry's remarks and about Mangrove site, Garacetti's plan, M-Zoning and the LA River Project and how the HCNC can help to further these projects and plans.

7) Treasurers Report - David Nagano

Just received handoffs from Dominic Ehrler, will go over and have report at next meeting. He estimates we've spent \$2,387.50 since the end of the year, not including costs for this meeting. He'll update for next meeting.

Much more importantly is the \$56,000 we are mandated to spend before June. We need to get proposals and determine how we can spend that amount of money. Actual deadline was end of February but DONE says we can still make proposals and possibly keep our funds.

Melvin Canas says DONE needs something in writing, doesn't have to be formal. Their funding department will then get in touch with you to get more information. When funding project in community not your own you need to state how the NC is benefiting. He also suggested considering purchasing equipment, like translation equipment or a PA System. Says DONE's translation equipment is very old.

Don Toy says the Board has approved a project in each area. Kim Benjamin went over the projects that have been approved by the Board in the last year.

Howard Fink says Echo Park newsletter had a one page ad regarding their local Neighborhood Council. Suggested HCNC could put ad in paper announcing our meeting.

Ann Kim says there was \$4000 approved for Youth Outreach during the Sept 2004 meeting.

Tim Keating – have him emailed exactly what was approved.

For projects that are approved please start filing out the paperwork (the white paper), called a project proposal request, so can get it into DONE.

8) Elections/By-Laws Committee Report – Alan Kumamoto

By-Laws amendment changing meeting announcement from 5 days to 3 days. Needs to have form filled out and filed with the city. Melvin Canas says he will work with Alan Kumamoto to get form filled out.

9) Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, Brian Kito

1<sup>st</sup> meeting was on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Worked on procedure for requesting funds for projects. Brian Kito presented “the green sheet”, called a preliminary project proposal request, its a simplified form to help begin the process. David Nagano presented “the white sheet” which is a more involved form requesting more information. Brian Kito asked the Board Members to start with the green sheet and turn it into the Action Committee and then the Committee can help you thru the process. They will streamline the process as it evolves.

Tim Keating for the Art’s District: Farmer’s Market move to Fletcher Bowen Square at Temple & Main St. Requesting \$1250 to publicize the move of Farmer’s Market Location. Referred to the Action Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Tim Keating for the Art’s District: Second Art’s District project is LaDAD space: demonstration project of Community Arts. Requesting \$11,250. Referred to the Action committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Action Committee also discussed the Youth outreach and that the At-Large people who don’t represent one specific area should have a budget broader projects that involve the HCNC as a whole and not just a specific area. President Benjamin would like to allocate 40% of project budget to At-Large projects that cover the whole Neighborhood Council.

President Benjamin would like the Action Committee to come up with response to M-zoning, Garcetti sales tax use, the River project, and TFAR.

Brian Kito also apologized for changes in meeting time and for some Board Members not receiving notification. Said notification would be better from now on.

Approval of Minutes: Don Toy wanted record to show that Brian had notified a third party of change in meeting and would notify primaries from now on.

Next Action Committee meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday at 6:30pm at the Koban.

10) Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action  
Arts District Resident, Little Tokyo Resident, Victor Heights Resident

**Arts District area voted in its new board member resident, John Sastow, to take seat vacated by Lucy Jensen.**

11) Victor Heights: proposal for funds to support Victor Heights' purchase of 50 official Neighborhood Watch signs for our streets. The amount would be around \$2,500, Ryan Timmeck.

Ryan Timmreck requests signage for Victor Heights, 50 Neighborhood Watch signs.

**Ryan Timmreck made a Motion to fund \$2500 for 50 neighborhood watch signs for Victor Heights. Hoover Tang seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Melvin Canas reiterated that the HCNC has to get some value, but because it's another city department making signs then must work with that department's criteria. Ryan says will place an additional sign thanking the HCNC for the Neighborhood Watch Signs.

**Gay Yuen proposed additional \$500 to make emblem thanking HCNC. Hoover Tang seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

12) Ron Fong to report on Little Tokyo projects to date.

Little Tokyo Mural: Photos on website. HCNC thanked on both projects.

New project is a map of Little Tokyo that will identify historical sites in Little Tokyo.

13) Forming of Task Forces on issues and or projects and related actions, Martin Farfan  
Martin Farfan couldn't be here tonight and postponed to next meeting.

14) Appointment of Committee members (chair and 2 members per committee) and related action items, Kim Benjamin.

Programs and Policy Committee: Martin Farfan – Chairman. Members, Gay Yuen and Ron Fong.

Action Committee: Brian Kito – Chairman. Members, Charlie Woo and Ryan Timmreck.

Elections/By-Laws: Alan Kumamoto– Chairman. Members, Richard Nozaki and Al Soo-Hoo.

Board Members may attend any of the committee meetings but only Committee members may vote at Committee level. Board Members will vote at Board level.

15) Public Comments

Michael Fong from Councilman Reye's office announced the job faire from 10am to 1pm at Dodger Stadium this Saturday, March 17th.

Michael Fong also stated that the Chinatown/Cornfields area is one of five opportunity node areas along the 32 miles of the Los Angeles River in the City of Los Angeles and that the public comment period for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan ends on March 27, 2007.

Raymond Yu: St. Patrick's Day parade, Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from El Pueblo to Pershing Square, where there will be a festival. Parade starts at 11:30pm. Pershing Square Celebrations starts at 12:30pm.

Melvin Canas: Congress of Neighborhoods will be April 21 at Bonaventure Hotel. This year's theme is Education, and training new board members. Registration 7:30am, Event: 9am to 3:30pm with lunch provided and free parking. [www.Lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.Lacityneighborhoods.com). They need volunteers, looking for a quota of one volunteer per neighborhood council for the congress of neighborhoods. 2 shifts, early 6:30am to 11am and from 11am to 3:30pm. Let Melvin know if you can volunteer.

16) Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change

Next meeting: 4/10/07 from 6pm to 8pm. Location to be announced, would like to have it either in Victor Heights or Solano Canyon.

Approval of minutes: Don Toy wanted record to show that minutes show meeting starting at 6pm whereas meeting actually started at 6:30pm.

17) Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

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