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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



HISTORIC CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
305 E. 1st St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213 847 5026
213 473 6703 (fax)
kim@laeroc.com
anne@laeroc.com
jlsedano@hotmail.com

**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 15, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
LA Public Library – Chinatown Branch
639 North Hill Street, LA CA 90012**

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 – Kim Benjamin

Roll Call: Al Soo-Hoo, Alan Kumamoto, Alicia Brown, Ann Kim, Brian Kito, Charlie Woo, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Gay Yuen, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, John Saslow, Jose Sedano, Kam Lee, Kim Benjamin, Martin Farfan, Ne Tom, Richard Nozaki, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating.

Absent: Alan Galiano, Alfonse Marquez, Joe Wong, Peter Lau, Peter Woo, Yukiko Yamahata.

Vacant Seats: Resident Little Tokyo.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Robert Andrade-GM of El Pueblo; Suellen Cheng-El Pueblo; Davis Park-LTPSA; Edgar Garcia-Dept of City Planning; Dave Neubecker-CRA; Michelle Mowery-Dept of Transportation; Jill Sourial-Council Deputy for Councilmember Ed Reyes; Wallace Stokes and Ejike Mbaruguru – Dept of Public Works; Fabian Wagnmister-Charles Raphael Building.

Dave Neubecker, Assistant Planner, Downtown Region, CRA:

Metro's 2007 Call for Projects initial funding recommendations include four proposed public improvement projects in the HCNC area:

1) Cesar Chavez Transit Corridor (110 Fwy to Alameda St.) pedestrian improvements: 'bus stop gardens' at three locations along Cesar Chavez - westbound at Evans School, westbound between Spring & Broadway, and eastbound on the island at the SW corner of Spring & Cesar Chavez - as well as street trees, landscaping, pedestrian lights, enhanced crosswalks, and wayfinding signage along the corridor. Proposed by CRA; \$2.35 million total cost, with Metro providing \$1.7 million.

2) Downtown LA Alternative Green Transit Modes Trial Program transportation demand management project: contractor-operated transportation service providing an alternative way to travel the 'last mile' from transit stations to major activity centers utilizing electric-motor-assisted 2-passenger bicycle-transit type vehicles and 3-passenger Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, with a weekday Union Station-City Hall route and various routes tested on evenings & weekends. Proposed by CRA; \$1.025 million total cost, with Metro providing \$0.8 million.

3) Solano Canyon-Zanja Madre-Chinatown-Broadway Bus Stop pedestrian improvements at 8 bus stops along North Broadway from Bernard St. to Solano Ave., with street furniture and landscaping. Proposed by Bureau of Street Services; \$1.1 million total cost, with Metro providing \$0.9 million.

4) El Pueblo Pedestrian Improvements Phases I thru IV: design & construction of enhanced facilities to improve & assist pedestrian movement in the El Pueblo District and other landmarks in Downtown L.A. Proposed by El Pueblo; \$12.8 million total cost, with Metro providing \$5.5 million.

Don Toy has requested Dave Neubecker to provide copies of materials, plans, drawings, etc. for Cesar Chavez Transit Corridor project, and Solano Canyon-Zanja Madre-Chinatown-Broadway Bus Stop Improvements proposed by CRA. Also, Don asked if the proposed CRA project signage could include languages other than English, i.e. Chinese, Spanish. In addition, there should be multi-lingual outreach conducted in the community regarding these proposed projects.

2) Public Comments for youths and seniors: 10 minutes – skipped because of visitors.

3) Approval of Minutes March 13, 2007 – Jose Luis Sedano

Motion to approve minutes Gay Yuen and Tim Keating. Motion approved.

4) Spring Street Bridge – Mike Fong: The engineer and consultant team will present an overview of the project, timeline, and design alternatives they are considering.
Wallace Stokes and Ejike Mbaruguru – Dept of Public Works. Presented a Point Presentation on the project, showing 4 alternatives with advantages and disadvantages. Funded by both State and Federal Funds. During construction will be some noise, but the bridge is away from areas of habitation. Some impact on park during construction. Will improve transportation and traffic. Bridge is eligible for listing on National listing and will maintain the historic character of bridge. It will have an historic sign. Open for public review up to winter of 2007. Budget \$20,000,000. Bridge needs to be upgraded seismically. Website: www.NorthSpringStreetBridgeProject.org. HCNC will publish link on our website.

Fabian Wagmister: his family owns the Charles Raphael Building that could be demolished. Unanimous recommendation to make building an historic monument. 2nd oldest industrial building in LA. Want to turn it into a Community Center.

5) President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin
Policy & Guidelines 2007-2008 – Postponed until next meeting.
Approval of DWP MOU – Postponed until next meeting.

6) Treasurers Report - David Nagano – Postponed until next meeting.

7) Elections/By-Laws Committee Report – Alan Kumamoto – Postponed until next meeting.

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

David Nagano/Nikkei Federation for \$3,000 in HCNC funds to pay for program/brochure translation and printing costs for Nikkei Community Day, an event that occurred in Little Tokyo on Saturday May 12.

Motion to allocate \$3,000 for Nikkei Community Day costs: Ron Fong, Howard Nishimura. Motion passes unanimously.

Davis Park: LT community wifi project, free internet access. Public Safety component to wireless access and provide additional camera feeds to network which would provide additional safety to LT. Proposed project with CRA would provide 4 cameras and would like to add 4 more cameras, along 3rd Street border of skid row where there's been a lot of criminal activity. LAPD.org have all the crime stats. Cameras also mobile. LAPD would be users of cameras.

Motion to allocate \$22,600 for Little Tokyo's 4 cameras: Brian Kito, Martin Farfan. Motion passes unanimously.

El Pueblo: Howard Fink: way-finding /monument signage project working with the City and the local non-profit group. Amount will be about \$21,000. Howard Fink introduced presentation provided by

Suellen Cheng and Robert Andrade. Suellen gave presentation on signage project. HCNC would be given acknowledgment on the signage and would be working with the City of Los Angeles on this project.

Motion to support El Pueblo Signage project: Howard Fink, Hoover Tang. Motion approved unanimously.

9) Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action - Postponed
Little Tokyo Resident,

10) Public Comments

11) Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change: **Next meeting Thursday, June 7th at Reiki's Kitchen in Little Tokyo, 6pm.**

12) New Business

13) Old Business: El Pueblo Plan

14) Adjournment