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Brian Kito, 1st Vice President
Martin Farfan, 2nd Vice President
Alan Kumamoto, 3rd Vice President
Gay Yuen, 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, January 22, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
RSA, 953 E Third St, LA CA 90013**

Parking on Street and behind security gate – someone will be there to let board members in.

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, Gabriela Quintana at 323 224 2317.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Present: Al Soohoo, Alan Kumamoto, Alicia Brown, Brian Kito, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, Joe Wong, Kam Lee, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Peter Lau, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmrick, Tim Keating.

Absent: Ann Kim, Charlie Woo, Gay Yuen, Edmund SooHoo, Jose Sedano, Martin Farfan, Ne Hay Tom, Peter Woo, John Saslow, Alan Galiano, Yukiko Yamahata.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Mike Fong, Gabriella Quintana, Jill Sourial, Jeff Lin, Claire Bowin, Deborah Kahen, Guy Zimmerman, Terry Munoz, Lisa Tang, Raymond Yu

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Raymond Yu made public Service Announcements.

David Nagano made announcement about plaque for tree in Little Tokyo.

Mike Fong made these announcements:

a. Cornfields Arroyo Seco specific plan meeting at 1400 North Spring Street on Saturday, February 23 at 9:00 am.

b. Bike, Walk, and Roll event at Los Angeles State Historic Park - Saturday, February 16 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Upcoming events in Chinatown for Chinese New Year

a. Chinese New Year parade on February 9 at 2:00 pm along Hill Street and North Broadway in Chinatown.

b. Los Angeles Chinatown 5K/10K run at 8:00 am beginning at 943 North Broadway.

3. Approval of Minutes December 11, 2007 – Jose Luis Sedano

Motion to approve minutes. Don Toy & Tim Keating. Unanimous.

4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action

4a. At-Large Youth – President Benjamin asked Board Members to find a youth.

4b. Little Tokyo Resident – Alan Kumamota says he has someone.

5. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin

5a. City Wide M-Z (Manufacturing/Industry Zoning) & I-Z (Inclusionary Zoning): HCNC Support for motions to allow for proper public input on matter.

HCNC has already voted and established as a guideline that such city policy must first be fully vetted with the public. (please review the city proposals copies attached) [pages 5 & 6]

Both these city wide policies are back on the City Agenda and M-Z actually has a proposed administrative policy which has been implemented without public input. The word is that I-Z is coming back to city council for a vote and approval.

M-Z City policy violates HCNC positions taken to date, as it relates to public input before policy is formed (which we didn't get a chance to do) and it establishes a protectionist policy on M-Z property which the HCNC is against. HCNC policy encourages mixed-use and highest and best use, subject to public input.

As to I-Z policy, this too is a policy not vetted with the public. It purports to require developers to add between 15% to 30% of any proposed new housing development (apts/condos) be required & provided to low income consumers. The economic burden this causes developers creates a disincentive for anyone building anything at anytime. Given the current credit crunch, housing crisis, costs of labor and materials, this proposed I-Z policy will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. I-Z policy may, if implemented without public input and without adjustments, could bring housing development in our community to a halt. This policy needs to be vetted before it is implemented or forced on anyone.

In the HCNC's President's opinion this is social engineering which may play good at the ballot box but does not do anything to contribute in a positive way to building communities. In fact it does not even provide actual housing for those that need it most, the poor and working people in our city

5b. CASP - Cornfields/Arroyo Seco Specific Plan: (Formerly: CRA North Chinatown Industrial Specific Plan) Clair Bowin

400 acres between the Chinatown and Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park Metro rail stations. This area and downtown right now is disconnected, this plan would connect them. Purpose of the Plan is to develop a roadmap for the area that defines a mix of uses, zoning parameters, and urban design features consistent with the communities' vision. The planning process to develop the Plan provides continuous opportunity for all of the community stakeholders to engage in open and frank public discussion and it is hoped and expected that the community will actively participate in drafting and editing the document from the early drafts to the final document. A special meeting for board members of the HCNC and key Chinatown stakeholders hosted by Kim Benjamin will be arranged for and announced shortly.

5c. River Plan City Approval: Mike Fong. Tabled to next meeting.

5d. Misc: Development Project updates, CALL FOR PROJECTS, and HCNC Sponsored Community Project updates and action items for:

5d1. Arts District: 695 S Santa Fe - David Seewack came to HCNC, we voted to support it. Planning Committee voted 3-3, didn't pass. Taken to City Council and approved.

We don't want industrial jobs protected that aren't there. We need proactive positive planning and policy. West of the 110 freeway you see no projects being built because it requires inclusionary zoning and it's not economically feasible.

5d2. Chinatown:

5d2a. 924 N Spring St

5d2b. Spring & Naud

5d3. El Pueblo Plan: Kim met with city officials on the El Pueblo project. Councilman Huizar has moved a motion to city council on the matter. The idea has traction and is moving forward.

5d4. Little Tokyo

5d5. Solano Canyon

5d6. Victor Heights: The White Knoll Lofts, 1100 White Knoll - John Schutz's (former HCNC Board Member) old house site.

6. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, Brian Kito [There will be an Action Committee Meeting next month even though no Board Meeting.

6a. Arts District Projects and Action Items. Update on LaDAD website project.

Motion to modify previous project to online web presence. Tim Keating & Al Kumamoto. Unanimous.

6b. Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

6b1. Chinatown Signage Project.

6c. El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

6d. Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

East West Players: Marquee Project.

Motion to approve funding for Projects A & D for \$10,850.00. Brian Kito & Danny Young. Unanimous except for Ron Fong who had to abstain due to conflict of interest.

6e. Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items: Solano Canyon Monument update: Craig Havens. Solano Canyon caucus is upset that they funds have still not come through from the City. David Nagano has submitted 3 times and due to changes at DONE has had to keep resubmitting. Kim asked Gabriella Quintano to hand walk it through and she agreed. David Nagano will get her all the paperwork.

6f. Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

6g. At-Large Projects and Action Items.

6g1. Youth Outreach

6g2. At-Large contingent community programs that cover whole HCNC.

6g3. LA City's Alameda & 1st RFP: Tim Keating. Recommendations on proposals.

6g4. Visual Communication's Beta tape clean and transfer project and presentation.

Jeff Lin. VC mission is to promote understanding thru visual media and books. Press release acknowledging the HCNC and on header of every tape and written acknowledgement on printed material. When done there will be DVD available for public use in controlled environment. No hazardous waste. \$26,553 total project. This is last piece of project. If HCNC approves \$10,000 in funding the entire \$26,553 will be fully funded as the other \$16,553 has been sourced and committed to already.

Motion to approve \$10,000 partial funding for the project. Tim Keating & Al Kumamoto. Approved Unanimously.

7. Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto & Gabriella Quintana NC's opportunity to hand over elections to City Clerk's Office. They have all the resources at their disposal. NCRC recommendation. Broken into a 3 phase transition. Part 1, all NC having elections from January to March will still be handled by NCRC. 2nd Part: April to June elections will be handled by the City Clerk's office. Third option, NC Elections from July to December, either push up to June 08 or push out to 2010. Must let City Clerk's office know by February. If change election date then have to change the bylaws. City proposing having elections in March and July in the even years. City has budget for outreach and materials and can publicize elections to the general public, saving the NC's additional expense. Cutoff date February 1st. If the NC petitions City by January 31st can have election June 08. There will be a new stakeholder definition that would allow broader representation, including write in balloting and mail voting... all categories now would stay along with the new, broader category. City Clerks and City Attorneys working thru the definition, working on language. Al Kumamoto suggests we take no action at this time since we're not having elections in June, and that we wait until we have more information. We have a good 6 months to work this out. Our election is still regular at this point. Membership agreed to take no action at this time. President noted the great concern we as a board have over absentee voting as it potentially allows abuses in the voting process and until this can be resolved adequately no such election process should be allowed or supported.

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano
No change from last month's report.

9. Public Comments

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

Meeting dates for first half of 2008:

Tues, February 12, 2008 – no meeting due to Chinese New Year.

Tues, March 11, 2008

Tues, May 13, 2008

Tues, June 10, 2008

11. New Business

Maria Teresa Munoz: Assist City Admin Officer: Proposition S. This is something that has been occurring in various cities throughout California. Tax on telephone services has been on the books for many years. City is asking voters to approve a 9% tax on telephone service. We've had a 10% tax for 40 years, originally billed landlines in City of LA. It originally started at 4%. City is updating an old ordinance that needs to be modified as it does not include Cell phones etc and the old language was written when Pacific Telephone had 80% of the market and it was based on federal law. Federal Law has changed but the telephone tax language has not. Some very large companies have challenged this. City is being proactive and if we vote against this then it will be tried in the courts and a judge will decide. Proposition S is to retain an existing level of service. Craig Havens and Kim Benjamin voiced concerns about what the money is to be used for in the future and concerns over billing practices and limitations on what gets billed and who... without clarity on this matter we would have trouble supporting any such tax.

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

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