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**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Koban, 307 E 1st St, Little Tokyo**

Parking in lot #7 – behind the Koban with entrance on Judge John Aiiso St.

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

Quorum reached at 6:20pm.

Present: Alan Kumamoto, Alicia Brown, Brian Kito, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Gay Yuen, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, John Saslow, Jose Luis Sedano, Kam Lee, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating. [20]

Absent: Al Soo-Hoo, Alan Galiano, Ann Kim, Charlie Woo, Martin Farfan, Ne Hay Tom, Peter Lau, Peter Woo, Ron Fong, Yukiko Yamahata.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Randy Carrillo, Joline Morgan, Betty Wong Oyama [DONE]

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Raymond Yu made his announcements, focusing on St. Patrick's Day.

DONE: Betty Oyama is filling in for Gabriela Quintana (Gabriela had a little boy) until she's back from maternity leave. Talked about new election procedures. Elections being move to the City Clerks office who will hold elections every two years. Those NC's who have elections scheduled in 2008 and are willing to move them to June will have their elections done by the City Clerk who will fund all election expenses. City Clerk will also offer Vote By Mail. Those NC's who don't want to move their election to June will be on their own, or can postpone their election until 2010 with a Bylaw change. Betty handed out draft language for the Bylaw change (see attached). Betty also handed out the Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils, amended February 20, 2008 (see attached). City rules require changes in Stakeholder Definition and for the HCNC the creation of a 34th Board Seat. President commented on previous and affirmed position of the HCNC position to wait until the 2010 election year to participate.

3. Approval of Minutes January 22, 2008 – Jose Luis Sedano

Motion to approve minutes made by Don Toy, seconded by John Saslow. Vote unanimous. Approved. Don Toy thanked Anne Walrath for her work.

4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action

4.1 At-Large Youth

4.2 Little Tokyo Resident

Kelsey lino – Little Tokyo caucus approved her. **Motion to approve Kelsey lino for HCNC seat of Little Tokyo Resident made by Brian Kito, seconded by Howard Nishimura. Vote Unanimous. Approved.** President Benjamin requested Brian have new member at our next meeting and to provide us with her contact information and email address.

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

5.1 River Plan City Approval: Mike Fong

Mike Fong will present at next board meeting.

President Benjamin noted that there was a joint meeting with HCNC and CBID board members on the Cornfields Arroyo Seco Specific Plan (CASP) with Claire Bowin, Dept of City Planning, on February 16th. Plan is for 350 acres of land on both sides of river from Lincoln Heights down to Cesar Chavez and the river to entitle each parcel by right to build or not build on same. It will be a second city adjacent to Chinatown and Lincoln Heights. President Benjamin suggested they close Spring Street to traffic to connect park to river and to Chinatown. Want to incentivize housing, reduce parking requirements, support green transportation, activate pedestrian connections and increase FAR and density on specific nodes of future development. He outlined HCNC opposition to restrictions on change in use of M-Zoned property and support for mixed use and adaptive reuse. Talked about many positive and proactive things. Also suggested largest parcel of dirt, the DWP, be taken away. President also outlined other HCNC concerns and positions for consideration in plan.

5.2 Development Project updates, CALL FOR PROJECTS, and HCNC Sponsored Community Project updates and action items for: KAB says we need to approve \$50,000 to \$100,000 in new projects, if possible by June 30, 2008.

5.2a. Arts District:

5.2b. Chinatown:

5.2c. El Pueblo

5.2d. Little Tokyo

5.2e. Solano Canyon

5.2f. Victor Heights: 1118 White Knoll Drive – HCNC letter of support. Artist's Lofts. They asked for abandonment at top of street, and the Dodgers have agreed to cooperate and create a cul-de-sac and then green up the space. **Motion to approve letter of support with the following amendment, add "We support vacating the street at the top of the hill provided that appropriate cul-de-sacs are built at the two points on the top off Mar View and White Knoll to the NW & NE corner of the 1118 White Knoll Drive location to allow for cars to easily return down the hill in a safe manner, and that the overall impact on the community does not adversely affect health, safety or welfare." made by Gay Yuen and seconded by John Saslow. Vote Unanimous. Approved.** Note that the VH's caucus had a problem with approving the street closure so with their consent and several other board members consent the letter was amended to take out approval of the street closure.

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

6a. Arts District Projects and Action Items.

6a1. John Saslow: LARABA - Dog Park: Were in negotiations for property for a dog park, but it's fallen through. Still looking.

6a2. Tim Keating: Requesting \$5,000 for the social service art school, Artshare, to enable them to open their under-utilized gallery space for use of the art district to give shows of local professional artists. Also requesting \$5,000 for another gallery, Dangerous Curves, to brand their new music program as an HCNC project. Will take these proposals to Action Committee for clarification.

6b. Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

6b1. Chinatown Signage Project: Don Toy: It's taken a long time because everything had to go through Cultural Affairs. In addition to the signage project have also talked about several beautification project ideas in Chinatown, going down Broadway and Hill, such as putting up banners and/or paper cutouts, carvings, art knots, or pole ornaments, and augmenting what's already on the poles. Also looked at ideas for replacing worn out benches. Don Toy showed various pictures of the ideas and ornaments and benches and informed the board that they will be putting together a presentation for the board. The various projects together will be between \$750,000 to a million, and the Chinatown caucus will be working with the Chinatown Business Improvement District, the CRA and the HCNC to fund different portions of the projects. They are looking to request \$25,000 to \$50,000 from the HCNC. They will be taking to the Action Committee.

6b2. Other Chinatown Projects to be determined. Banners are possible as is street art.

6c. El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

El Pueblo Monument signage project should be done by this summer or early fall and will have a presentation at end of summer.

El Pueblo is considering a horse patrol program and if they decide to do may want HCNC help.

6d. Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

Brian Kito: "Nihonmachi The Place to Be" Performance to benefit the Little Tokyo Koban (Koban means police substation). The musical goes through history of Little Tokyo, based on Brian Kito's store (105 year's old Japanese confection shop, the first in Los Angeles). The playwright, Soji Kashiwagi, interviewed Brian and his father. The Public Safety Association thinks it's important for other Little Tokyo business owners to see. Performance will be at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center on Sunday, March 30 at 2pm. Tickets are \$35, balcony \$30. HCNC will be recognized in the printed program and on future posters and in the announcement of sponsors at the performance. Little Tokyo caucus requests \$5620 to help put on the project.

Motion to approve request for \$5620 made by Alan Kumamoto and seconded by Hoover Tang. Vote Unanimous, with exception of Brian Kito who abstained due to conflict of interest. Approved.

6e. Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items: Solano Canyon Monument update: Craig Havens. Craig gave his thanks to Gabriella and Valerie and David and Kim and Anne for their help in pushing everything through.

Solano Canyon Caucus is talking about security cameras like Little Tokyo has done and putting lights and cameras and painting the tunnel so it's safer and brighter.

Alicia Brown: Made announcement that Alejandra Flores, a professional actress who resides in Solano Canyon, wants to start a Young People's Drama Group at the Elysian Park Adaptive Center.

6f. Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

Hoover Tang thanked Ryan Timmreck for all his hard work on the Neighborhood Watch signs. They will send pix to Anne so we can upload to our website.

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.

City owned land with 6 member commission studying the site. 3 finalist giving their proposals tomorrow night at JANM at 6pm. The commission will probably make their recommendation by the end of the week.

6g4. Visual Communication's Beta tape clean and transfer project and presentation. David Nagano has put check request in. Check is pending.

7. Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto. No actionable items.

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano. Report attached.

9. Public Comments

Pastor Randy Carrillo. Plaza United Methodist Church, established 1899, first Spanish speaking church in LA. The Churches of Highland Park get together and discuss and pray for the community and at one such meeting decided to do a Give Out a Backpack. Last year gave out 3,000 in Lincoln Heights. They want to expand to El Pueblo. They are requesting donations from City and are seeking funds from the HCNC. Pastor Carrillo directed to the El Pueblo caucus for discussion and approval.

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

Next Meeting dates for first half of 2008:

Tues, May 13, 2008 - Alicia Brown is working on getting us meeting space at San Conrado in Solano Canyon.

Tues, June 10, 2008

Next Action Committee: Tuesday, April 8th, 6pm at the Koban.

11. New Business

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

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