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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 5:45 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural Center
244 S San Pedro St, LA CA 90012
Cultural Room, Fifth Floor**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm with a quorum.

Board Members: Al SooHoo, Alan Kumamoto, Brian Kito, *Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Gay Yuen, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, John Saslow, Jose Sedano, Kam Lee, *Kelsey Iino, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Ne Tom, Peter Lau, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating, *Yukiko Yamahata. *Late arrivals who re-established quorum.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Pete Foster, Suellen Cheng, Pauline Wong, Dianna Martinez, Dianna Robertson, Steven Wong, Jessica Kikuchi.

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Raymond Yu gave public service announcements.

2.1 Sergeant Pete Foster: Policing Issues in area. 10 minute presentation, 5 minutes questions.

Brian Kito introduced: Pete Forster, Sergeant at LAPD Central Division: National Night Out – America's Night Out Against Crime. Will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, Little Tokyo hosting and want HCNC to sponsor. Will be on 1st St from San Pedro to Alameda. Each year it will be in a different HCNC area. Last year's was huge, car show, all the restaurants put out booths. West Valley won the award, but Central Division came in second nationally. They did with 5 weeks notice and no funding. Want all the communities and all NC's involved within Central Division.

3. Approval of Minutes March 11, 2008 – Jose Luis Sedano [page 3 & White Knoll page 7]

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.

Motion to approve the Minutes of 3/11/08 made by Edmund Soohoo and seconded by Don Toy. Approved Unanimously.

4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action
 - 4.1 At-Large Youth
 - 4.2 Senior-At-Large: Yukiko Yamahata will be resigning at the end of June. Please post the vacancy. Exec Committee will bring a nominee to the board.
5. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin
 - 5.1 River Plan City Approval: Mike Fong - postponed
 - 5.2 Development Project updates, CALL FOR PROJECTS, and HCNC Sponsored Community Project updates and action items for:
 - 5.2a Arts District:
 - 5.2b Chinatown: Preserve America – FCAM – HCNC Letter of Support [page 8]
Pauline Wong: On 4/22/08 board accepted proposal for FCAM to be the designated non-profit.

Don Toy: Yale Terrace 50-60 units just completed. Thursday, 5/22 grand opening, 10am, on site in the courtyard. Behind Alpine Plaza.
 - 5.2c El Pueblo
El Pueblo concept is being shepherded by Jose Huizar through the city process, long process but very worthwhile.
 - 5.2d Little Tokyo
Nihomachi – Brian Kito showed the program and the page acknowledging the HCNC, it will be uploaded to the HCNC website.
 - 5.2e Solano Canyon
 - 5.2f Victor Heights
Kim Benjamin used to be property owner but sold 871 Figueroa to Frank McCord of the Dodgers. He will attend a future HCNC meeting to tell us their plans for the site.
6. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, Brian Kito – minutes for May 6, 2008 meeting page 9. Dave Nagano says even though the Action Committee meeting went for 4 hours, the pertinent people need to show up for the meeting so that the projects can be vetting there and ready to go to the Board meeting.
 - 6.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items.
 - 6.1a Tim Keating, Art Share- Upgrade of theatre, Lighting, electrical, and gallery. Requesting \$6,000. 10 year old social service agency that teaches kids the arts, trying to re-utilize their gallery for this but need to upgrade lighting and electrical, \$4,000 in funds being matched by LARABA. Year long series of plays. It will enrich the community and the kids. Board discussion: decided to lower amount to \$4,000 and let LARABA contribute \$6,000.
Motion that the HCNC spend \$4,000 for lighting and electrical for the ArtShare LA Gallery made by John Saslow and seconded by Mark Rothenberg. Approved Unanimously.
 - 6.1b John Saslow, Project – Neighborhood watch signs. Requesting \$3,200.
Arts District Community Watch program is 5 years old. 50 Neighborhood Watch Signs, identified the locations. Same number of signs as Victor Heights. Still have problem people in area and need the signs. John says that can make \$3,000 work.

Motion that the HCNC spend \$3,000 for Arts District Neighborhood Watch Signs made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Mark Rothenberg. Approved Unanimously.

61c. Padua Playwrights: Done having problem with minute's wording of original motion.

Motion to re-affirm and approve Padua Playwrights online project for \$11,500 made by David Nagano and seconded by Don Toy. Approved unanimously.

6.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

6.2a Don Toy: Chinatown Project: Culturally Sensitive Streetscape. Requesting \$25,000. \$25,000 previously approved by HCNC Board, asking for an additional \$25,000. The board reaffirmed its support for Chinatown and the original request of \$25,000 and encouraged the Chinatown caucus to secure the necessary paperwork to get the proposed project completed and the warrant issued... pending this the additional request of another \$25,000 will be tabled. In addition if the funds are not used soon and other projects rise to the board that secure its support the original \$25,000 in funds may become an issue.

6.2b Other Chinatown Projects to be determined.

6.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

6.3a Pauline Wong- Chinese American Museum Signage Program. Requesting \$12,500 Install 3 architectural blade signs on the south side of the building, one sandwich board sign and one mounted entrance sign. CAM has been open for 5 years. They are hoping the signs will improve their visibility. CAM will acknowledge HCNC in their brochure and will also put a link to the HCNC website on their website and HCNC will also be recognized on their donor wall for any contribution over \$5,000. They want to use materials that are cultural significant and long lasting, maybe some kind of metal or wood. Permanent installation.

Board discussion regarding funding only one blade sign and having CAM get other community groups to fund the other signs.

Motion to pay Think Jacobson & Roth \$4000 for one blade sign made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.3b Robert Andrade- Awning and signage project for Las Angelita's tour office. Requesting \$4,300: Diana Martinez. El Pueblo has a 25% budget cut this year. On behalf of the Las Angelita's who do public tours for schools for free in El Pueblo, need awning and signage over their door to help the teachers and children find them. Looking for permanent installation that is culturally intune.

Motion to pay \$2,000 for awning this year and \$2300 next year (July 1st budget) made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.3c Robert Andrade- El Pueblo Cultural and Environmental banners. Requesting \$20,070 Diana Marinez: 48 Light pole banners promoting El Pueblo/Olvera Street cultural events on streets connecting Little Tokyo, El Pueblo and Chinatown. Good promotion and advertising for El Pueblo and Olvera Street. Banners would be on Main, and Los Angeles Streets. HCNC would be acknowledged on the banners. With 24 banners could do every other light pole but even with less banners there are some costs that will not reduce such as design costs.

Board Discussion: Would like to look at paying for 20-24 banners instead of 48 and cut request to \$10,000.

Motion to pay \$10,000 for 20-24 banners made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.3d Dianna Robertson- Siquieros Oral History Project. Video Requesting \$4,000

Merchant on Olvera street. The mural on the Italian Hall was done in the 1930's and then was whitewashed. The Getty currently working with the city to put in a museum but there is no oral history and the merchants of El Pueblo want to create an oral history of what this project is about. Need \$4,000 for the filming etc. Olvera Street Merchants Association merchants will be matching up to \$4,000. Want to make a minimum of 1,000 videos, up to 5,000. Always offer free video to schools. Each DVD will cost \$8 dollars to produce. This initial 1,000 will be donated.

Board Discussion: Can only afford to spend \$3,000.

Motion to pay \$3,000 to Gamnek Unlimited, Inc. for Siquieros Oral History Project made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.3e Dianna Robertson- Reusable canvas shopping bags, and printing. Requesting \$5,055 78th year of the opening of Olvera Street, June 7th Fiesta de la Flores. Protecting the planet. All activities free to public and want to give out "green" bag as souvenir that will promote the merchants. Recyclable canvas bag. HCNC would be acknowledged on bag. Too late for us to fund. If have excess money at June meeting will revisit.

6.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

6.4a Nancy Kikuchi- Volunteer Plaque for JACCC Japanese Garden project. Requesting \$2,000. Also getting funding from CRA, Prop 40 etc. for the Garden. This is just for plaque.

Motion to pay \$2,000 LT Garden Renovation Volunteer Recognition Plaque made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.4b Jessie Kikuchi-JACCC 25th Anniversary Children's Day Celebration - Chibi-K: Kids Fun Run T-shirts and printing. Requesting \$3,500 Asking for funding for the T-shirt. Over 600 shirts for all the kids and volunteers. HCNC will be acknowledged on the t-shirt and the runner bib and on the Children's Day Sponsor Banner and Posters, along with onstage recognition. A lot of low income children and underserved communities participate and this year they are partnering with local elementary schools and Head Start programs to bring children from outside of the immediate Nikkei community to Little Tokyo.

Board Discussion: HCNC will pay \$2,000. Kim Benjamin volunteers to donate another \$1,500 from LaeRoc Funds.

Motion to pay \$2,000 to Little Tokyo Art Workshop for T-Shirts made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by John Saslow. Approved unanimously.

6.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items

6.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

6.6a Ryan Timmreck- Tai-chi in Everett Park, weekly classes for 3 months. Requesting \$2,000. [page 10] Tiny underused park on hillside, would like to have Tai-chi classes in park to help bring the community out. Instructor would be Peter Kwong who is an award winning actor, choreographer, martial artist and Tai-Chi Chuan instructor. Amount covers \$100 per weekly session for 3-month trial period, plus \$800 for outreach and additional expenses.

Motion to approve \$2,000 for instructor for Tai-chi project made by Tim Keating and seconded by Don Toy. Approved unanimously.

6.6b Ryan Timmreck- "Meet Your Neighbors" Block Party Requesting \$20,000. [page 12] Ryan: They want this project so that the community can get out and meet each other and to also get them involved in Neighborhood Watch. Many diverse cultures in Victor Heights. Gay added that they don't have the experience in putting this together so it would work

better to hire a company to do the outreach. Also easier for vendor payment, insurance and permits. Want to bring out 3,000 people. HCNC asking for specific budget.

Motion to change name to Victor Heights Community Outreach and Education Fair and to approve \$20,000 pending specification of the budget made by Don Toy and seconded by Howard Fink. Approved Unanimously.

6.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

6.7a Steve Wong- Diskovery Center, Upgrade of computers, software, printer, high resolution video camera, etc. Overall goal is to expand the DISKovery Center's community technology program to serve a wider population of underserved community members in and around the Little Tokyo neighborhood. Requesting \$38,485 DISKovery Center is based in Little Tokyo on first Street but moving up the street and want to revamp their lab. They provide community computer and technology training and serve a diverse group of people from Little Tokyo, Victor Heights, Chinatown and beyond. They provide free computer access to people in Los Angeles, offer classes in English, Spanish, Korean and Japanese. They have a technology lending program, cameras, scanners etc. They empower the community by giving them technical skills. They target seniors and youth and families. Have a whole range of programs, like the senior's Wii program, a senior video program. Computer adoption program where they provide computers to people and centers who cannot afford them. They have 20 work stations that are 4 years old, not quite up to speed for video programs. They have a marketing plan and would like to market programs through community groups. HCNC would be acknowledged through all their marketing efforts. The NC would also benefit in that the lab would be open to all the HCNC stakeholders. They want to revamp the HCNC's website and logo and would also make available their facilities up to 6 times a year for board meetings. Most important items after computers, Software, Network printer, and video camera.

Board Discussion: HCNC willing to spend \$12,000 and get items DISKovery not as likely to get donated as computers.

Motion to pay for \$12,000 of equipment, high priority items less likely than computers to be donated and in exchange DISKovery would revamp HCNC's website and create a logo for the HCNC made by Kim Benjamin and approved by John Saslow. Approved unanimously with 1 abstention, Ron Fong because of conflict of interest.

6.7b Youth Outreach

6.7c At-Large contingent community programs that cover whole HCNC.

6.7d LA City's Alameda & 1st RFP: Tim Keating. Recommendations on proposals.

President's comments on Fiscal responsibility: President Benjamin noted with enthusiasm that we have, as a board, worked together to find our common voice... we have tonight approved 12 new projects totaling \$74,300. These 12 projects represent community sponsored events, services, and the like in nearly every area of the HCNC. This work would not have been possible without the collective effort of the entire board and specifically the leadership of our Action Committee and most certainly its Chair Brian Kito and our Treasurer David Nagano. Many members of the board stepped up to the challenge, a challenge issued nearly 2 years ago, to create projects our communities' would be proud of and to see them approved, set in motion, and completed. We have done this and in doing so allocated nearly all the financial resources that the city had provided to us since the inception of the HCNC. Thank you all, it has been a pleasure working with you to make these projects possible and to show our communities that we can work together and give voice to our separate but similar interests.

7. Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto: Election bylaw changes.

Motion to postpone our election until June 2010 and extend boards seats and executive terms until election in June 2010 made by Ron Fong and seconded by Tim Keating. Approved unanimously.

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano [page 13]
9. Public Comments
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, June 10, 2008

11. New Business
12. Old Business
13. Adjournment

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