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H C N C  
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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**General Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 6:00pm  
Pico House, First level  
424 N Main St, 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 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, Gabriela Quintana at 323 224 2317.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Meeting called to order at 6:18pm.

Present: Al Soo-Hoo, Alicia Brown, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, John Saslow, Jose Sedano, Joseph Wong, Kelsey Iino, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Peter Lau, Ron Fong.

Absent: Alan Kumamoto, Ann Kim, Brian Kito, Charlie Woo, Gay Yuen, Howard Nishimura, Kam Lee, Martin Farfan, Ne Hay Tom, Paul Bukowski, Peter Woo, Ryan Timmreck.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Lilian Deloza Gutierrez, Wendy Fujihara Anderson, Jack Richter, Archie Davenport, Jimmy Miyoshi, Iranteu Pujadas, Dreau Robbins

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Raymond Yu gave community announcements.

3. Approval of Minutes May 13, 2008 – Jose Luis Sedano

**Motion to approve the minutes made by Mark Rothenberg and seconded by Don Toy.**

**Vote was unanimous.**

4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action

4.1 At-Large Youth

4.2 El Pueblo Business: will be posted after Labor Day when El Pueblo HCNC Members return.

4.3 Senior At-Large: Jose Sedano has applied for Senior At-Large and will give up El Pueblo Business.

**Motion to approve Jose Sedano as the Senior At-Large made by David Nagano and seconded by Al Soo-Hoo. Vote was unanimous.**

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

5.1 River Plan, Arroyo/Seco Plan, Chinatown Streetscape Program, Cornfields: Mike Fong

Chinatown Streetscape project is underway, new trees, benches, and tree wells. The Council office has approved the idea of having the Chinatown BID authorized to oversee and administer to a new program to attach commemorative plaques (with Chinese proverbs on them) to benches and street lights throughout Chinatown, and to have the BID raise funds for this project from donors and name donors on plaques and have the funds retained by BID in Chinatown for community projects consistent with BID General Plan.

Kim Benjamin wants to raise money to get more benches with Families donating and putting their name on. Don Toy made comment that putting new next to old doesn't look good, also suggests maybe having an interim meeting with the public to help them understand what's going on.

Arroyo/Seco Plan: looking at the industrial properties. Kim said that the Claire Bowen project, Arroyo/Seco Plan is very exciting.

Cornfields: Still going through the design process.

LA River Master Plan: Councilman working with a lot of groups, trying to make connection between Cornfields and LA River. Also trying to create physical linkages to the communities and they are very aware where areas are blocked.

1<sup>st</sup> & Beaudry Park: Grand opening this Saturday Morning at 9am.

Solano Canyon Clean-up Day on Saturday, July 26, Meet at 9am at Solano Canyon Community Garden, 545 Solano Ave.

Congratulations on the approval of the Solano Canyon Monument Sign.

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

5.2c El Pueblo: Dianna Martinez-Lilly, LA's 227<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Wants it to be an At-Large proposal. It tells the history of the beginning of LA that the public has been missing and would like some of the board members to be on the committee and participate in creating this and connect your businesses and communities together. How do we move them to your neighborhood?

David Louie: 227 years ago 44 people walked out of the San Gabriel Mission. They were a diverse group and that diversity has been carried forth in El Pueblo and in Los Angeles.

They want to engage those around us for the city's birthday. We are the neighborhood. This is the center of the founding of Los Angeles. They need people and resources, and people that have expertise in marketing, in putting together programs. They have 5 weeks to put it together. They're trying to brand the communities and it's an opportunity to showcase the different communities. They would like help to buy the period costumes.

Costumes cost about \$1,000 and are reusable. Kim suggests we contribute the \$1,000 for the 6 costumes. At-Large contribution. Kim will also see if Chinatown BID will participate.

**Motion to give \$1,000 for the 6 costumes and designate Howard Fink to be on the committee made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Danny Young. Vote was unanimous.**

5.2d Little Tokyo

5.2e Solano Canyon: Alicia Brown. The community of Solano Canyon is divided by the 110 freeway ramps going north and south which have created a barrier in the middle of the community. There has been more community participation that affects the whole Solano Canyon on one side of the Freeway than the other. Danny Young and I have walked both sides the neighborhood and personally spoken to residents to inform them of the importance of their voice at meetings where concerns and issues are discussed and encouraged residents who are not attending our Community meetings to attend and get involved.

We have planned a Community Event for the whole Solano Canyon community. We plan to bring activities of interest for all ages, serve food which will be donated, have activities for children and special presentations by the City Agencies. We also want to give out information about the HCNC. It will be held at the Casanova Auto Park on Casanova St. It will be from 10 am to 2 pm. Date to be announced in September. We have permission from the park. The space will be used on first come, first served basis. We are asking HCNC for \$ 300 dollars to defray some of the expenses. The whole event will be free to the Solano Community.

**Motion to give \$300 to Solano Canyon for food for Community Outreach Program made by Ron Fong and seconded by Howard Fink. Vote was unanimous.**

**Kim Benjamin suggests that Solano Canyon may want to stage the SC Monument Sign Ceremony with the pocket park ceremony.**

5.2f Victor Heights: Wants Bylaw change to make Non-Profit seat a Residential Seat.

6. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, new and previously approved (see minutes of 5/13/08 and prior agendas). Brian Kito

6.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items. Meeting took place, was not substantial, nothing decided yet.

6.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

6.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items: CAM, Suellen Kwong: Thanked the board for approving the \$4,000 for the blade signs. Asked for the signs because CAM has become a very important part of El Pueblo but it's very hard to find and the signs will give CAM more visibility. FCAM matched the \$4,000 from the HCNC. Now CAM is asking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the CAM signage project which would be \$8,400. 3 Elements, the blade signs, the entrance sign and the sandwich sign. Ron Fong would like to send this back to the Action committee to be vetted again. Al Soo-Hoo said they were not here for motion, only for presentation to get in line. Project has been vetted and partially approved. Timing on project, the sooner the better because project is stopped, Dianna says City's birthday should be goal. Kim Benjamin would like to see CAM see money from other sources.

6.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

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 1<sup>st</sup> St from San Pedro to Alameda. Each year it will be in a different HCNC area. Asking \$1705.00 for sound equipment for two stages. Officer Rictor – Senior Lead Officer: Boxing Exhibition, Bicycle Tour, Stage with contemporary music, Japanese Dancers, Japanese food and drink. Last year was in the Arts District, each year move to a different area.

Suggestion to get DLANC to also sponsor and the HCNC pay for sound equipment for on stage for \$852.5.

**Motion to give \$852.50 to the National Night Out for sound equipment for one stage and to send letter to DLANC asking them to sponsor the other stage made by Don Toy and seconded by Ron Fong. Vote was unanimous.**

6.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items

6.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

Wendy: Community Outreach, the DWP has agreed to donate their parking lot for the event. They want to do a big banner saying the HCNC welcomes you to the Outreach and Educational Fair.

Wendy has been doing a lot of outreach and will step it up now that they have a venue. Goal is to have all the major components by August 12<sup>th</sup>. Sent letters out to officials asking for letters of congratulations and thanks to Victor Heights and the HCNC. Councilman Reyes is donating \$1500 worth of rental equipment.

White Knolls: Dreau Robbins: trying to vacate a street and still keep it open to pedestrians. 5 month process, prepared to take whatever votes Victor Heights and HCNC give and take it to the public forum. One new development, seriously entertaining CBS development letter offering to buy White Knolls. 2.5 Million. Dreau says if they don't get the street vacation they will seriously entertain selling to CBS for a low income housing development. 323-464-7853, 5500 Hollywood Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl. Dreau and the Victor Heights caucus agreed to meet again with the community and go over solutions.

6.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

6.7a Youth Outreach

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

7. Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto

Howard Fink is accumulating information on the City run elections and will pass the information on to Alan Kumamoto.

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano.

9. Public Comments

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

Next meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup>

11. New Business

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

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