

OFFICERS

Kim Benjamin, President
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



HISTORIC CULTURAL
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
c/o Koban, 307 E 1st St
Los Angeles, CA 90012
800-523-7621
310-374-4652 (fax)
kim@laeroc.com
anne@laeroc.com
jlsedano@hotmail.com

**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 5:30 p.m.
Chinatown Branch Library Meeting Room
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, Gabriela Quintana at 323 224 2317.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Brian Kito – Meeting called to order at 6:15pm
Present: Al Soo-Hoo, Alicia Brown, Brian Kito, Charlie Woo, Craig Havens, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Gay Yuen, Hieu Van, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, John Saslow, Jose Sedano, Mark Rothenberg, Paul Bukowski, Peter Lau, Peter Woo, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating, Valerie Hanley.
Absent: Alan Kumamoto, Ann Kim, Howard Nishimura, Joe Wong, Kam Lee, Kelsey Iino, Kim Benjamin, Martin Farfan, Ne Hay Tom.
Guests: Tonya Barrett, Veronica Becerra, Tom Hsieh, Wei Young Chu, Marti Artan, Shuki Chau, Soledad S. Garcia, Dianna Robertson, Ed Fuentes, Dana Hollister, Elizabeth Peterson, Raymond Yu.
2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes
Raymond Yu made his public service announcements
Grand Plaza Residents made an appeal to the board – all residents are fixed income, lately the owners have raised the rent 6.6% twice in 6 months and the residents can't afford. Grand Plaza used to be for SS and low income residents but the owners are ignoring this and raising rents above the regular standard. They are asking for our help in contacting any officials who can help.
Valerie Hanley – Announced the Semana Guadalupana Placita Olvera December 8th through 11th at El Pueblo and handed out cards.
3. Approval of Minutes September 9, 2008 – Jose Luis Sedano
Correction on item 6.2: Chinatown looking to see if there are additional funds and partners for additional projects.
Motion to approve the minutes, subject to correction of item 6.2, made by Gay Yuen and seconded by Jose Sedano. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action
4.1 At-Large Youth

- 4.2 El Pueblo Business: Posted September 2nd
El Pueblo caucus has vetted and approved Valerie Hanley for the El Pueblo Business Seat.
Motion to seat Valerie Hanley as an El Pueblo Business Representative on the HCNC Board of Directors made by Howard Fink and seconded by Jose Sedano. Motion approved unanimously.
5. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin
 - 5.1 River Plan, Arroyo/Seco Plan, Chinatown Streetscape Program, Cornfields: Mike Fong
 - 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
 - 5.2d Little Tokyo
 - 5.2e Solano Canyon
 - 5.2f Victor Heights: Bylaw change to make Non-Profit seat a Residential Seat.
 - 5.2g At-Large:
 - 5.3 1111 Sunset Blvd Project. Bruce Ehrlich
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.
 - 6.1a Mega Toy Property Project: Veronica Becerra and Tom Hsieh, architect from Tagawa Smith Martin Residential
Motion to support the project conceptually subject to the Arts District caucus input made by John Saslow and seconded by Tim Keating. Motion approved with abstentions by Charlie and Peter Woo for conflict of interest.
 - 6.1b The Bridge Tavern Project , Dana Hollister and Elizabeth Peterson: 1356 East Palmetta. Won lottery for beer and wine license, they have all their permits and licenses. Have completely renovated with a restaurant and beer garden, 56 parking spaces on site. They are coming to the HCNC as a courtesy to let us know about it and to ask for a letter of support.
Motion to write an HCNC letter of support for the project made by John Saslow and seconded by Tim Keating. Motion approved unanimously.
After the vote the ladies presented the HCNC with fabulous cupcakes for everyone!
 - 6.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.
Don Toy – CRA is matching HCNC funds so have to go to City Council, think it will be this week. They'd like to expand and go beyond this initial project but want to wait until this part is done.
 - 6.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.
El Pueblo Plan – Valerie says a lot of the merchants don't like the concept because it blocks the view to Union Station and Little Tokyo and takes over the area they want for a children's green space. Also think a hotel there doesn't make sense because the hotel on other side is not doing well. Doesn't think the concept matches the area. Mark Rothenberg says plan has a park space

over the freeway, Valerie made the suggestion that perhaps they should put the hotel over the freeway and move the green space closer to El Pueblo. Mark said the HCNC is not vested in the plan per se but in using the plan to help rejuvenate the area around El Pueblo and connect the areas. Brian asked Valerie as the new El Pueblo Business rep to work with the merchants and work with us on ways we can come together.

6.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

6.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items.

Solano Canyon Monument Sign. Craig Havens and Alicia Brown: Craig passed out cards of the new monument and Alicia told us about the Dedication ceremony. The Dedication is Saturday, December 13, at 10am.

6.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

Gay Yuen: no projects but some of priorities are getting more active participation in the community like neighborhood watch.

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. First vote on Bylaw changes.

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano. Action Items:

8.1 Revote on HCNC Budget. Original budget very spartan and not acceptable to DONE, so filled out budget with all the items he could identify.

Motion to approved the expanded budget made by Don Toy and seconded by John Saslow. Motion approved unanimously.

8.2 Vote on Business card expense of \$1,298.28 for GS Printing.

Motion to approve the expense made by Hoover Tang and seconded by Howard Fink. Motion approved unanimously.

Vote on Ed Fuentes Design & Photography bill of \$500 for El Pueblo banner revisions. RT

Motion to approve the expense made by Hoover Tang and seconded by Howard Fink. Motion approved unanimously.

8.3 Vote on Visual Communications bill of \$2,000 for hard drives (addendum to tape cleaner we already purchased).

Motion to approve the expense made by Charlie Woo and seconded by John Saslow. Motion approved unanimously.

8.4 Vote on change in the use of the East West Players marquee to include payments directly to East West Players: payment of \$6,244.09 for Marquee, \$2,020 for painting and repair, and \$2,000 for interior trophy case electrical.

Motion to approve the expense made by John Saslow and seconded by Howard Fink. Motion approved unanimously.

9. Public Comments

Ed Fuentes: LARABA and Arts District Resident. Blogdowntown.com. Here to thank HCNC for the \$500 and would like it expedited asap. Personal request. He's been locked out of his apartment.

10. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change.
Next meeting is January 13th.

11. New Business

Grand Plaza residents rent raises. HCNC support. Don Toy believes they're under rent control and owner is ignoring it.

Don Toy made motion to write a letter of support for the Grand Plaza Residents, to help with understanding the situation, and helping with contact of officials who may be able to help to initiate action in combating the rent increases, seconded by Ron Fong. Motion approved with one abstention by Al Soo-Hoo.

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

* * *

"In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at Koban, 307 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, or on our website at www.hcncla.org, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Anne Walrath at anne@laeroc.com or call 800-523-7621.