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David Nagano, Treasurer
Alicia Brown, Historian

H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



HISTORIC CULTURAL
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**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
Chinatown Public Library - 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 – Kim Benjamin
Meeting began at 5:40pm
Attendees: Al Soo-Hoo, 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, Joseph Wong, Kelsey Iino, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Paul Bukowski, Peter Lau, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating, Valerie Hanley
Absent: Ann Kim, Charlie Woo, Kam Lee, Martin Farfan, Ne Hay Tom, Peter Woo
Staff: Anne Walrath
Guests: Betty Wong, Tonya Barrett, Raymond Yu, Naheed Qureshi, Fabiola Vilchez
2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes
Raymond Yu gave public service announcements.
3. Approval of Minutes December 12, 2008 – Jose Luis Sedano
Motion to approve meeting made by John Saslow and seconded by Howard Find. Approved unanimously.
4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action
 - 4.1 At-Large Youth: think we have a youth from Chinatown Service Center.
 - 4.2 El Pueblo Business: Filled by Valerie Hanley.
5. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto. First Read on Bylaw changes. First Read of Bylaw changes read through by group. General Discussion of changes. Alan Kumamoto will call a Bylaw Committee meeting on the Bylaw changes.
Some changes Suggested:
Pg 6 - Under "Board of Directors" the number should be changed from 33 to 34 (per City Clerk adding At-Large Community Interest Representative.
Changing Victor Heights Non-Profit seat to At-Large Victor Heights seat.

Pg 7 - Under "Quorums #1" - the number should be changed from 17 to 18 members

Under "Article VI #1" - the number should be changed from 33 to 34

Pg 8 - Under "The remaining board seats...." - the bullet lettering has duplicate "c" and then no "e".

Naheed Qureshi from DONE: After experience with elections by the City Clerk they've learned and will be asking for changes from every neighborhood council to accommodate the city clerk process which she thinks we've addressed with our bylaws changes, but just a heads up that in the next few weeks will be getting communication from the City Clerk about what specific changes they need.

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. Mega Toys support letter. Tim Keating doesn't think the letter reflects the Arts District opinion. LARABA refused to support it. Arts District caucus will rewrite the support letter.
 - 6.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items. CRA/HCNC will be funding the benches near the entrance sign. Hopefully will be approved shortly. Couple of projects they are talking about but not ready to bring to the HCNC yet. KAB reminds that the HCNC and CBID can co-fund projects.
 - 6.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items. 2 projects, \$2K for awning and \$3K for video. Valerie asks if anyone on the board a project tracker? David passed out a list of projects.
 - 6.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.
 - 6.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items.
 - 6.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items. Purple Silk Music Education Foundation. Joe Wong played a little of their music. 60 kids in orchestra, ages 7 years old to High School. Plus more students taking music lessons. Giving performance in Chinatown. Victor Heights asking for \$2500 for one night's stay at hotel and food.
Motion to give \$2500 to PSMEF for hotel and food for their performance in Chinatown made by Gay Yuen and seconded by Joe Wong.
 - 6.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.
 - 6.7a Youth Outreach
 - 6.7b At-Large contingent community programs that cover whole HCNC.
7. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin
 - 7.1 River Plan, Arroyo/Seco Plan, Chinatown Streetscape Program, Cornfields: Mike Fong
 - 7.2 Development Project updates, CALL FOR PROJECTS, and HCNC Sponsored Community Project updates and action items for:
 - 7.2a Arts District
 - 7.2b Chinatown: \$3.5 million streetscape being done, 50 new benches being installed. Special edition added on to the benches and plaques added with donator's family names. CBID was just expanded and takes in 20% more geography.
 - 7.2c El Pueblo: Kim welcomed Valerie Hanley to the Board. David Louie, Commissioner of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Authority and Chair of its Budget and Operations Committee had the following comments:

- Thanked the HCNC for the extensive and comprehensive work that has been completed within the included communities.
- Reported on the current status of El Pueblo
 - The Monument is experiencing a challenging time
 - Our mission is to provide the Citizens of Los Angeles a world class historic, cultural and educational monument celebrating the birthplace of Los Angeles. It is located on 22 acres of land and improved with 150,000 SF of many of the most historic and significant buildings in Los Angeles. The Pico House (the oldest hotel), the Merced Theatre (the oldest theatre), the Avila Adobe (the oldest residence), Fire House #1 (the oldest fire house), Hellman Quan Building (last remaining original Chinatown building), the Italian Hall, the Chinese American Museum, the Plaza (the original Plaza de Los Angeles), Olvera Street and coming soon the Siqueiros Museum. There are over 2.0 million visitors a year of which 600,000 are students. The annual budget is just over \$4.0 million.
 - Budget short-fall of \$1.0 million for the year
 - Lease revenue is less than 50% of market. No rent increase in over 15 years
 - A significant reduction in services should be expected
 - The Monument is looking for ways to increase revenue, decrease cost and getting the most for each dollar spent
 - Budget and Operations Committee meeting on 02/24/09 to discuss Merchant Agreements
 - All interested parties are invited
 - Pico House from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM
 - The proposed development of Father Serra Park and surrounding parking lots is very attractive
 - Activate area
 - Create destination – Maybe re-create Old Chinatown
 - Generate revenue
 - Eliminate homeless encampment
 - Force drug dealing and prostitution to other areas
 - Use of the site for Children’s Playground makes no sense
 - No children live in the area or visit the existing facilities
 - Grade change in not conducive to playground
 - Entire area is surrounded by very busy street traffic

Valerie Hanley said that 3 developments have not been developed, and Bank of American has been vacant for over 8 years. Hanley said El Pueblo used to be self sustaining. Thinks when the city took over El Pueblo when the revenue started to go down. Coordinating a gathering at El Pueblo to discuss solutions.

7.2d Little Tokyo

7.2e Solano Canyon: Alicia Brown. Request by residents for support from HCNC regarding illegal units built on Amador/Solano. We have gone to Dept of Building and Safety and energetically pursued action from them to inspect the property for the fifth time and they found 5 rentals in a R2 Zone block. We went before the DBS Commission and were granted our request of stopping bldg and push back to illegal permits as issued for only 2 dwellings. The owners are dragging their heels and have tenants whom are still living there and things are not moving as mandated by the Commission. Residents are angry. They have asked me if the HCNC can support them. Either a letter of support or some other kind of action to show the blatant disregard for the law. LADBS very much want to stop this, as they’re like tenement houses and it opens the door for other lots having the same thing done. Owner owns 2 properties in neighbor, one has already been converted. Asking for the HCNC’s guidance in preserving the R2 Zoning. Want a letter of support from the

HCNC supporting that they come into compliance. **Motion made by Craig Havens to write a letter of support and seconded by Alicia Brown. Vote was unanimous.**

Solano Canyon Monument Dedication: Wonderful ceremony. The community now knows who the HCNC is and sends their thanks for HCNC's help and support in installing the monument. Alicia Brown thanks the council for coming and fro their support.

7.2f Victor Heights: Bylaw change to make Non-Profit seat a Residential Seat.

7.2g At-Large:

8. Treasurer's Report: David Nagano. Action Items. David Nagano gave the Treasurer's report and said he'd email report to anyone who didn't get one a copy. Per Don Toy need to change money ear-marked for Chinatown from \$37K to \$37500. Nagano said he'd make the change.
9. Public Comments:
Fabiola Vilchez: Introduced herself as the new Central Area Director for Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa's Office of Neighborhood and Community Services. The Central area includes the communities of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Pico-Union, MacArthur Park, Westlake, Historic Filipinotown, East Hollywood, Melrose, Hollywood, Los Feliz, Larchmont Village, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Mid-Wilshire, Mid-City, the Fairfax district, Echo Park, Elysian Valley, Silver Lake, Carthay, Miracle Mile and everything in between. She is looking forward to working with us on issues and projects that impact the Central communities.
10. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change.
11. New Business
DWP is against Proposition B. Solar Energy Bill. If goes thru all workers will come from one union, monopoly.
12. Old Business
13. Adjournment - Next Meeting Tuesday, March 10th.

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"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.