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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
Chinatown Branch – LA Public Library
639 N Hill 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 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, Naheed Qureshi at 213-473-5391.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Attended: Alicia Brown, Brian Kito, Danny Young, David Nagano, Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo, Gibson Han, Hoover Tang, Howard Fink, Howard Nishimura, John Saslow, Jose Sedano, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Martin Farfan, Paul Bukowski, Peter Woo, Ron Fong, Ryan Timmreck, Tim Keating

Absent: Al Soo-Hoo, Alan Kumamoto, Charlie Woo, Craig Havens, Gay Yuen, Hieu Van, Joe Wong, Kelsey Iino, Ne Hay Tom, Peter Lau, Valerie Hanley

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Officer James Valdez, Steven Jimenez, Officer Stephen Nichols, Tanya Barrett, Jimmy Miyoshi, Lai Ceez, Tom Ha

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Raymond Yu made public service announcements.

Naheed Qureshi: DONE is negotiating with City Clerk about what their election budget would be. City Clerk will need the NC's help and assistance for the election process as their budget is going to be much less than they thought it would be. Please answer the Emergency Preparedness Questionnaire.

Brian Kito said we really don't have an Emergency Preparedness Committee. We're supposed to have a public safety committee, and it could be integrated with emergency preparedness. Would like to research that for the next meeting, especially after the last two earthquakes. Will put on next agenda to begin the process and form a committee at next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes April 14, 2009 – Jose Luis Sedano

Motion to approve the Minutes of April 14 made by Hoover Tang and seconded by Danny Young. Vote was unanimous.

4. Vacant Board Seats – Discussion and Action

4.1 Chinatown: Lai Ceez and Tom Ha, prospective members, attended meeting and were introduced by Don Toy.

4.2 Victor Heights: Jimmy Miyoshi, prospective member, attended the meeting and was introduced by Ryan Timmreck.

5. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Alan Kumamoto.

5.1 First vote on Bylaw changes.

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
4 projects at the Action Committee meeting: Mounted Police, Arts District, Little Tokyo & Chinatown, all projects vetted and approved by Action Committee. David Nagano redid the budget with new funding guidelines of \$45,000 a year.

6.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items.

Tim Keating: A Thousand Words project. 1 ½ years ago committed \$11.5K to build an arts centre that was matched by LARABA and Padua Playwrights. Using this, he negotiated a 5,000 foot space that is on hold, fully entitled but still need plan check. To keep things going decided to take Art Share space and renovate that space and want to do A Thousand Words 2, a month long event, 6 plays and 6 performance art shows, to legitimize Art Share and bring in more money. Asking HCNC for \$5,000 and matching it with funds from LaDAD and LARABA. HCNC will be acknowledged in the program. Anticipate 1,000 patrons to come to the plays. Funds raised go to various other arts projects. Last time coming to the HCNC for money. Questions and discussion.

Motion to give \$3,000 to Padua Playwrights/LaDAD space for A Thousand Words 2 made by Ron Fong and seconded by Martin Farfan. Unanimous with 1 abstention by Tim Keating for conflict of interest. Motion passes.

6.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

Have matching funds for signage from CRA. Chinatown partnering with MTA Call for Projects, CRA, CBID and HCNC. Trying to get it done soon because the CRA money always goes in last and their funds may be in jeopardy. Looking for \$13,000 for signage to get the \$60,000 match and need \$14,000 for the decorative pieces to get the \$60,000 matching funds. Noted that along with the \$120K matching funds there is also the maintenance costs to keep things up at a cost of \$1.3 million. Questions and Discussion.

Motion to give \$13,000 for completion of the fabrication for the signage subject to the matching funds of \$60,000 made by Ron Fong and seconded by Martin Farfan. Unanimous with 2 abstentions, Brian Kito and Alicia Brown. Motion passes.

Next meeting: motion to cut down on translator fees to give more monies to Chinatown.

President Benjamin pointed out great new Chinatown crosswalks and talked about the benches and sponsorship.

6.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

6.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Action Items.

1st Annual Tanabata Festival 2009 in Los Angeles. Asking HCNC for seed money to get it started. Lots of inkind services. Looking for 3,000 to 4,000 people working on this event, hope to have 10,000 attend. Event is all about the spirit of working together. Have raised \$10,000 so far, maybe have another \$5,000 coming. Asking HCNC for paper and shipping costs of \$10,000. HCNC will be recognized on 1/3 of the ornaments and acknowledged in opening ceremonies and in the press. Discussion.

Motion to give \$5,000 made by Edmund Soohoo and seconded by Danny Young. Unanimous, except for Brian Kito, conflict of interest. Motion passes.

6.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items

6.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

6.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

6.7a Youth Outreach

6.7b Mounted Police Program: Ranger James Valdez: Ranger Nichols, Ranger Gun, both from the academy, new rangers. Horses housed in Cornfields but patrol the whole historic area. 20 to 24 hours a week. Victor Heights would be excluded because of the steepness of the streets. Discussion.

Motion to support the Mounted Police at ½ the allocation, \$12,500 made by David Nagano and seconded by Danny Young. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passes.

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

7.1 Development Project updates, CALL FOR PROJECTS, and HCNC Sponsored Community Project updates and action items for:

7.1a Arts District

7.1b Chinatown

7.1c El Pueblo

7.1d Little Tokyo

7.1e Solano Canyon: 20 minutes: update on SC, Craig Havens & Alicia Brown
LAUSD, Solano Canyon has low enrollment and the LAUSD has cut down hours of principal and cut 2 teachers. Every year we have to save Solano Canyon elementary school. Dodger Stadium has started fireworks every Friday night and this has upset Solano Canyon community. Motorcyclists racing bikes in their community. Radio Hill still has problem of homeless encampments along with drug addicts and veterans, even with several sting operations. The community can't use the park. Living in our community has become unbearable, it is no longer a quiet community. Solano Canyon is going to speak to the City Council, they have already spoken to Councilman Reyes, the LAPD and the Park Rangers but no one is sure who is responsible for Solano Canyon. Solano Canyon is bringing this to the attention of the HCNC and seeking the HCNC's support and guidance. Solano Canyon has a wonderful website: www.solanocanyon.net and the link is on our community page on the HCNC website: www.hcncla.org.

Edmund thanked Alicia for update. Howard Fink said that the HCNC had written several letters of support for several projects and felt we could certainly write another letter of support for Solano Canyon like we did for the R2 Zoning issue they had. President Benjamin said that he and others on the Board would help Solano Canyon look into these problems and possible resolutions.

7.1f Victor Heights: Bylaw change to make Non-Profit seat a Residential Seat.

7.1g At-Large

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

7.3 Oppose City Council efforts to reduce 2009 budgets and to make a motion recommending NC's be provided at least \$40,000 a year and that DONE staff be reduced 50 percent and elections of all NC's be postpone till 2012 and that these savings go to budget shortfall.

President Benjamin announced that they had voted on NC Funding and it had been cut to \$45,000/year and that Brian Kito attended the City Council meeting on NC Funding on our

behalf. He also spoke about lobbying council members to postpone elections until 2012 to save \$4.5 million dollars and that they should postpone elections until city is back in the black.

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

Made some adjustments on the budget, moved \$10,000 from Proposed Outreach to Community Development Programs.

Motion to approve amended budget (Move \$10K from Proposed Outreach to Community Development Programs) made by John Saslow and seconded Tim Keating. Unanimous. Motion Passes.

9. Public Comments

10. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change. June 9th, 2009 in the Arts District, at Art Share. Tim Keating will send address and directions. July will be summer recess.

11. New Business

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

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