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H C N C

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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General Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 5:30 p.m. Cathedral High School – MHR Conference Center 1253 Bishop Rd, Los Angeles, 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, Grayce Liu at 213-847-5026.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm with a quorum. President Benjamin thanked Oscar Leong, head of Missions and Development, and Martin Farfan, President, for allowing us to meet here and especially thanked Raymond Lopez for organizing the meeting and Alicia Brown and Danny Young for helping. Oscar Leong also gave credit to Raymond for having the ambition to have the meeting at Cathedral High School. President Benjamin noted the incredibly beautiful facilities and that Cathedral High School's new facilities had been one of the last projects built within a several mile radius in these tough economic times. Oscar noted that his first boss was Don Toy, that his first job had been at Teen Post when he was 14 and that he had grown up in Chinatown, he lived on Solana Ave and attended Castelar School, Solano, Queen of Angels and Cathedral. President Benjamin also said that Cathedral High has one of the best track records of schools in the state with one of the best ratio's of students going on to college. Present: Angie An, Kim Benjamin, Alicia Brown, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Gibson Han, Ne Hung Hom, Tim Keating, Raymond Lopez, Peter Martinez, Howard Nishimura, George Poon, Steve Rice, Mark Rothenberg, Chase Rummonds, Hoover Tang, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Alex Vasquez, Danny Young. Absent: Ne Hay Hom, Steven Jimenez, Brian Kito, Alan Kumamoto, Peter Lau, Tak Hung Lau, Peter Lee, Yee Lim, Shaojiao Luo, Mandi Masai, Charlie Woo, George Yu. Guests: Ginny Brideau, Valerie Hanley, Leslie Chang, Emily Martinez, Munson Kwok, Alejandra Flores, Oscar Leong.

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Ginny Brideau, The Robert Group: Gave us a brief update on the Regional Connector project, which would extend tracts from 7th Street Metro Center to the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station, providing through-service from Long Beach to Pasadena, or Santa Monica to East Los Angeles. Ginny passed out 2 pamphlets of the Regional Connector Transit Corridor. She said that construction would use a tunnel boring machine (TBM) from 2nd/Central to 2nd/Hope, or 2nd/Hope to 2nd/Central. There would be cut/cover at the station locations, along Flower Street between 7th and 2nd Streets, at the Broadway and Little Tokyo station locations, and at the intersection of 1st/Alameda Streets. One of the things Metro really needs to hear back for the community on is the boring machine, since there will be a tunnel boring machine either starting at this end of 2nd street or at this end up at Hope, the big question is where

should Metro insert that tunnel boring machine? If insert at first end the dirt will be coming out toward the Arts District and Little Tokyo. If insert is at Hope the dirt comes out on a grassy knoll that has quick access to the freeway. Asked if board members could take a moment tonight and drop an email letting Metro know where you want it to go. The early traffic studies show the worst of impact would be at 4th St and that's because you have an offramp that feeds from the I-110 and right into a parking lot. The biggest concern that Metro has is that Little Tokyo is one of last three Japanese communities left in United States, and Metro is fully committed to working on a mitigation plan to protect Little Tokyo during construction and to let people know that Little Tokyo is still there while construction is going on. Metro is working with all the community groups in Little Tokyo on developing the mitigation plan. Have until Oct 18th, midnight, to send in public comments on alternate plans: email to regionalconnector@metro.net or leave comments on project phone line 213-922-7277. Web: metro.net/regionalconnector. Metro Board will meet on Oct 28th to decide final plan and will let public know where the construction will be. Two preliminary meetings that will take place and those agendas came out today. The very big news which just came out this afternoon is a recommendation not to build the station at Fifth and Flower saving \$73 million on a Project that is \$1.4 Billion dollars. Part of Mayor's 30/10 initiative.

Howard Nishimura said there was a lot of rumbling going on in Little Tokyo and circulation of a petition, people are upset about mitigation during construction and disruption of business, it's a big issue. Its difficult now, we're losing a lot of shops. Genny restated how important Little Tokyo's well being was to Metro and how committed they were to mitigating the construction process.

Ron Fong informed the board that Metro has paid for a consultant that Little Tokyo chose to help with the mitigation. He's looking at 50 projects across the country to see what's out there, then they are going to design a mitigation plan for the community. They were able to get them to go all underground in Little Tokyo. Don Toy said Chinatown also got a consultant and did the same thing but kept the stations above ground.

3. Approval of Minutes for September 7, 2010 – Mark Rothenberg
DT Correction: 5.1 specific issues that were not agendized.

Motion to amend minutes to reflect the correction of the budget to reflect that it was \$5500 for translation and transcription services including both past and present services and that Teen Post Item of \$5,000 is removed from Community Improvement Projects and approve the minutes made by Don Toy and seconded by Danny Young. Unanimous. Motion approved.

4. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Peter Martinez
Pete says he'll have something for the board for next meeting. He wants 7 individuals to be on the Bylaw/Election Committee and will be speaking to them this month.

5. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, new and previously approved. Brian Kito not present. President Benjamin noted new procedure of now having to agendize specific items.

5.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items. Tim Keating says they been doing a street tree project and they planted 38 street trees last year and would like to do another street tree project this year. If the HCNC had any money would like some funding. Last year they got their funding from LARABA and the Arts District BID.

5.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items. Don Toy said Chinatown has a number of projects coming up. Two affordable housing projects, one on Yale Street and 808 Spring Street, the old Canton Bank building, is being planned for conversion to affordable housing, and a new park from Yale up the hill by library to the next street to link Hill Place to Yale Street. We were fortunate in getting additional money from the CBID and looking to try and put in bilingual signs, not just Chinese and English but other languages too, like Spanish. Alicia Brown had questions for Don Toy about the street closures for various celebrations, CCBA closes street, October 1st, independence of People Republic of China, closed streets and had over 1,000 people, and the 10/10 closure for

Independence of Taiwan. The Moon Festival, sponsored and paid for by the Chinatown BID, and coordinated by its Executive Director, George Yu, had 15,000 people, had to get permits and related paperwork. Good for the merchants and all permitted uses. Alicia Brown says she understands but wants Chinatown to understand the problems the street closures cause in Solano Canyon. Don Toy asked Alicia Brown to communicate more with him if its causing problems with Solano Canyon. Kim Benjamin noted as President of the Chinatown BID Alicia Brown and all others can address such issues to him as well in case he can help. Don Toy will also communicate with her about events and street closures. President Benjamin will direct George Yu to include Alicia Brown on communication about events and street closures.

5.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items. Pete Martinez: Ground breaking for Siqueiros's Mural last month, had the Mayor and Councilman Huizar there and a good turnout. Believes it a \$5 million dollar project. Getty and City putting in 2.5 million each. Rent negotiations have been going on with the city. Lots of improvements on Olvera Street, nearly 20 million dollars, with major improvements in the larger businesses. We need to energize the area financially. Hopes the Park 101 becomes a realty.

5.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items. Ron Fong: working on regional connector project.

5.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items.

5.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items. Don Toy wants to get together with Chase Rummonds and Hoover Tang about Neighborhood Watch so don't duplicate efforts. They agree.

5.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

5.8 Youth Outreach: President Benjamin asked Ray Lopez and Gibson Han to organized an Youth Outreach based at Cathedral High School that could address issues like how many students are going on to college. Noted that Cathedral High School had one of the most successful High School to College ratio anywhere, all students are required to apply to college and almost 100% go. President Benjamin suggested an outreach to the kids in the community who don't attend Cathedral High School and maybe want to know who to apply to Cathedral, or how to find a job, something that helps give kids tools to do more than just graduate from High School and then do nothing and become a burden to themselves and society. Cathedral would be a great place to hold it, could have teachers doing workshops, you've got an auditorium, you could have an education program, you could bring in things like how to have health care and things like that. We have talked about this before but want to make it happen this year, sometime in the spring. Oscar said there is a College night at CHS in October. Also, the community can use the school for events.

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

A couple of RFP's out in play, Alex and Valerie and I met today about the El Pueblo RFP which came out on 10/04/10 from the city and the deadline to respond is 11/29/10. It makes available the Pico House to some party other than Old LA. It includes Pico House, Helmond Quan, Masonic Hall and Merced Theater. In order to be a qualified candidate have to put up either \$30K for each building or \$100K for all four buildings. Kim believes city wants Telemundo and is trying to run it through for them. Kim will email the RFP. If anyone is interested it's an RFP for consideration.

Little Joe's is now owned by the City of Los Angeles and there will be an RFP coming out on that. The idea is to do what Kim had originally planned and that Larry Bond has gotten the permits for. Don Toy said there will be an RFQ before the RFP on Little Joe's.

Mark Rothenberg is on the Executive Committee of the Advisory Committee for Park 101. SCAG, Southern California Association of Governments, along with Metro, LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and EDAW (a major urban design company) has commissioned a study to

put a cap over a portion of 101 freeway that runs from Union Station along El Pueblo up to the church. Studies been done, renderings have been done, there's been some public outreach and public committee meetings, it seems like a really good idea from a connectivity perspective to literally cover this open trench that separates Chinatown and the El Pueblo area from Downtown LA and would link everything together. Concurrently with that study is the fact that High Speed Rail is also coming to LA and its all going to have an impact. So the study in a sense is being funded by SCAG with the consideration that High Speed rail component so this area of Los Angeles is going to dramatically change over the coming years. So there is a groundswell to create this wonderful park, cover the 101 freeway and create some more open space and public amenities. It's a process to look forward to. President Benjamin said he has been participating in the meetings, says it's a really great project but a complicated project when you consider the complexities of the organizations and the communities that want to have a voice. It will be a wonderful project if its done right, to park it, connect it to Grand Avenue, green it all the way down to the station and connect El Pueblo by pedestrianation to Downtown City Hall. Financially there's no single source for funding. Historically, this project has been going on for 30 years. Do you know the name Pat Sorus? That big building out there that the Metro occupies? That building's named after him for a reason. He was one of the guys involved in the project in the beginning to try and get it going. Wonderful but complicated and has tremendous hurdles. Its an architect's dream, and it's a project for public transportation, pedestrianation, and infrastructure, it's a wonderful project but it has so many hurdles I don't know how they're going to get something tangible done. Asked Mark to forward meeting announcements to the board.

Don Toy said people like ourselves represent more then just a business interest and I'd like to see us get involved, it could be a great project, but with these complicated projects you have to get involved early and it has to be more than one or two people or it will roll over you. With the El Pueblo RFP he has already contacted the commissioner to ask what was going on.

Alicia Brown introduced Alejandra Flores, the Founder and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Theatre Academy: she discovered the theater two years ago in 2008, it had been closed for 4 years. Park and Rec fixed it for us before the big crisis and they cut the budget and they are renting the theater. They're closing the park surrounding the theater and the school children don't know what to do for after school program. So the Theatre Academy along with Solano Canyon decided to open an after school program which they did in one week. Right now they have approximately 20 kids and they're looking for funding to keep the park because otherwise they're going to close the park, but we want to keep it for the kids and the teens. They want to have a safe place for the children so they have somewhere they can go and something to do and can get involved in the community. They are offering classes along with the after school program, as well as performances for and with the community. They work with Solano Canyon, especially with the performances because Solano Canyon doesn't have a theater and uses theirs. Right now they have to close at 6pm because that's all the budget they have but would like to keep it open later so the teens could come and the neighborhood artists are willing to teach so want to keep it open for the community. She would like to speak more next time and request a letter of support from the HCNC to continue the project. Will put on the agenda for next meeting to have a presentation.

7. Treasurer's Report: George Yu
Action Items:
8. Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: Brian Kito, research report and committee formation. Brian Kito to notice a date and time for a meeting of the Action Committee to prepare a plan. All Board members to be invited.
9. Public Comments: No public comments.

APPROVED

10. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change. 11/9/10 at Café Metropol in the Arts District. Angie will do a map for the board members.

No meeting for December, winter break.

11. New Business

12. Old Business

13. Adjournment at 7pm.

"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.