

OFFICERS

Kim Benjamin, President
Brian Kito, 1st Vice President
Alan Kumamoto, 2nd Vice President
Peter Martinez, 3rd Vice President
Don Toy, 4th Vice President
Mark Rothenberg, Secretary
George Yu, Treasurer
Peter Lau, 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

**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 08, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
JACCC, 244 S San Pedro St, 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

Kim called the meeting to order at 5:40pm with a quorum.

Present: Angie An, Kim Benjamin, Alejandra Flores, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Ne Hay Hom, Ne Hung Hom, Tim Keating, Brian Kito, Tak Hung Lau, Raymond Lopez, Peter Martinez, George Poon, Steve Rice, Mark Rothenberg, Chase Rummonds, Hoover Tang, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Danny Young, George Yu.

Absent: Alicia Brown, Gibson Han, Steven Jimenez, Alan Kumamoto, Peter Lau, Yee Lim, Shaojiao Luo, Mandi Masai, Howard Nishimura, Alex Vasquez, Charlie Woo

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Emily Martinez, Steven Chavez, Kris Morita, Dianna Robertson, Melvin Canas, Paul Mackley, Valerie Hanley, Estela Lopez, Tara Devine, Arturo Gonzalez, Jack Richter, David Louie, Paul Hanley, Howard Fink.

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes

Melvin Canas of DONE introduced himself. Main number is 213 485-1360 said to please call with any questions or concerns you may have. He talked about Ethics training online and the City Ethics Commission. Said if you have completed the training and your name is not on list contact him. It's obligatory to take the Ethics training, which is why the Commissioners are looking into it and the rate of completion. Many NC's are adding to their bylaws that new members have 60 to 90 days to complete their training or their voting privileges may or not be suspended. In addition the NC may lose certain funding rights, although this is not likely. Don Toy asked for a video in Chinese or a class in Chinese in Chinatown. In answer to a question from President Benjamin to Melvin "How do you enforce this?" he replied that the only teeth the commission has is tied back to funding. Please read the EBlasts DONE sends out. Also said they have a neighborhood council volunteer taskforce who are updating the database.

Council District 14 Downtown Director Arturo Gonzales: He was approached about a pedestrian pathway from Union Station to El Pueblo to the new Arts Culture Center just across from Pico House. Grant from MTA to make pedestrian pathway. Met with El Pueblo BID, El Pueblo Mgmt, Arts Culture Center and DOT. It was suggested to move the current crosswalk toward the Arts Cultural Center. El

Pueblo said no you can't move the crosswalk, merchants of EP will not support it. So DOT did a study and asked for another crosswalk that would satisfy both city and county and that's what's going to happen. Not a done deal yet in preliminary stages. It will create a more user friendly environment. Mr. Gonzales will Email next event and Peter and Norma will go. Mr. Gonzales will keep us informed.

3. Approval of Minutes for November 9th, 2010 – Mark Rothenberg
Motion to approve Minutes of November 9th, 2010 made by Ron Fong and seconded by Don Toy. Unanimous. Motion Approved.
4. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Peter Martinez
5. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, new and previously approved. Brian Kito
 - 5.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items.
Premier Events CUP for Lot 613 Banquet Hall:
Recommendation of the Art District Caucus having met with the developer and looked into the matter. Angie An and Mark Rothenberg for the AD Caucus

***Motion:* The caucus for the review of the Premier Events Conditional Use Permit (CUP) recommend/motion to the HCNC board to support the CUP Issuance for Premier Events subject to the conditions noted. Specifically, item 39 addressed in the applicant's CUP to be modified to comply with newly proposed 1 year and 3 year review process. Motion made by Angie An and Seconded by Mark Rothenberg.
Vote: Yes: 8 No: 10 Abstain: 0 Motion does not carry.**

***Motion:* Recommend HCNC attend the proposed meeting of Community Groups that CD 14 staffer Tara Devine suggested be put together, and after that meeting the HCNC can decide if they want to revisit this issue or come back with conditions we can support. Motion made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Don Toy. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Background/Comments of Caucus:

The Arts District is a commercial/residential area, and if we want the Arts District to thrive and grow... the businesses and the residents need to compromise. Any business will impact the residents because increase in population, noise, traffic, etc., and residents will complain for whatever reason. However, residents need to understand that the businesses are important to the growth of the Arts District, and the revitalization came about from businesses being attracted to the area... this is urban living, and that's what attracted residents to move here. And in turn, businesses also must monitor themselves, and that is the purpose of the CUP.

The CUP is a guideline or rules for the applicant to follow. The conditions that are attached to the CUP are enforced by the city and the state. The CUP and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) license go hand in hand... if the applicant violates the conditions of CUP, they can lose the ABC License also. If the city gets enough complaints, they will give a warning, then a suspension and eventually close the business down... residents have more rights than business. Business should be given an opportunity to operate and prove themselves responsible to the community. Question and Answer: Condition 40 imposed by police department. Supply security at ratio of 1 to 50. Must patrol outside their property in a range of 30 feet. Were trying to work out agreement with the BID to use their security but BID is against this. If business is sold the new owners would also have to reapply for a review of CUP.

Council office: Tara Devine: Director of Planning and Economic Development in 14th District. CUP comes with a lot of provisions and restrictions. Some are more enforceable than others. The more custom or unique the condition the harder to enforce it. When applicant applies for a CUP can be regular or expedited. Expedite: hearing 5 months. Regular: 6 to 10 months. During time

applicant has filed for CUP City is usually not in a position to shut the business down. The burden of proof has shifted to the City and takes enormous resources to investigate. Investigation usually takes 1 year. Now starting to use a Plan Approval with and without a public hearing. Usually do one or two plan approvals before they can move to shut someone down. 613 has been in a long process and there is much controversy in the community over the project. Have asked applicant to sit down with community interests for a couple hours to answer questions. Top concerns of community is noise, parking and unpredictability of events.

Officer Jack Richter, Senior lead officer for Arts District. His experience with their company has been both good and bad. Been to events where there were no problems. Co-workers have been to events where there have been problems. He want them to be successful but also wants them to be crime free and not infringe on quality of life. President Benjamin asked if police dept has kept stats. Answer was no. Officer Richter said most of the problems are quality of life issues, loud noises, talking, urinating in the bushes.

Estella Lopez: Arts District BID: Embarrassed this is only the 2nd time she's been to our meeting. Thanked us for the invitation. She stated "Why would the BID which is pro-business, pro-investment, why would we have taken a position against this particular venue?" Stated they have never taken a position against any night time or alcohol venue before, but have been very supportive. Ms. Lopez says they are making an exception in this case because this application is different. This is not a business that is going to be open throughout the week. It is only a special events venue. When it doesn't have a special event it is not open to the community. It's what our parents used to call a dance hall. It has events as large as 1200 people, which makes parking problematic. BID provides street patrol, first line of defense. When quality of life issues arise in the community, they will call the BID not the police. We felt at the BID that this particular application had a particular risk that the BID is not willing to support. Once you grant a CUP it takes God and all his Armies to turn it around. I spent all afternoon at City Council to try and stop a liquor store that has worse quality of life issues, worse location downtown, selling to juveniles and intoxicated persons. Have watched for over a year while it goes thru the appeal process. Feel in this particular case they are seeking to institutionalize. Ms. Lopez has seen the impact of people parking ½ mile away, drinking outside premises because no drinking inside. There are limitations to the events they can have right now, takes 30 days to get a dance permit which provides limits to them. With the CUP it institutionalizes the use and takes away the limits.

5.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

\$13,000 for Chinatown Lanterns (vendor: Zumar) demand warrant filed with DONE and is waiting for permit.

\$12,500 for Medallions project: Don Toy to report at next meeting on status and likelihood of completion.

5.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

The HCNC adoption of the Union Station and El Pueblo Angel's Walk stanchions and ongoing maintenance and cleaning, etc.

5.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

5.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items

Solano Canyon Monument Sign 2: President Benjamin and Danny updated Board on Monument project. Kim informed board of Alicia's health condition and that he visited Alicia last week and she is making a strong recovery from surgery.

5.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

Chase Rummonds, a couple of homicides in the area and some burglaries. Beaudry to Echo Park Ave beautification, he would like to know who's involved and pressure them to get project

done to help that corridor. Originally it was Cal Trans and MTA, but now shuffling Federal money. Sunset itself has too much crime. Revitalization would help and need better security.

5.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

5.8 Youth Outreach

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

Kris Morita, Assistant City Librarian from the Los Angeles Public Library

Measure L will be on the L.A. city ballot for the March 8th election. Measure L is NOT a new tax but increases the Library's share of existing city funds to restore library services that have been severely cut. For example, for first time in 129 years the library is now open only 5 days a week instead of 6. Measure L would let the Library stay open one more day and 2 more evenings, and would provide money for books. People are coming to the library to enhance their lives, to use their computers, to use their online training, to bring their young children, etc. Kris Morita is asking HCNC to endorse Measure L.

Motion to endorse Measure L made by Don Toy and seconded by Hoover Tang. Unanimous except for 1 abstention, Ron Fong who is Kris's brother. Motion Approved.

President Benjamin donated about 8 books to the Library tonight and asked Kris to give us guidelines for future donations. Kmorita@lapubliclibrary.org. She will email us the guidelines.

7. Treasurer's Report: George Yu

Action Items:

President Benjamin went over the Treasurer's Report, please see attached. Pointed out that as of today the HCNC had roughly \$58K in funds to spend before June 30th of this year, minus \$13K for Chinatown Lanterns; \$12,500 for Chinatown Medallions; \$5,000 for the Solano Canyon Monument Sign 2; and \$3,000 for the El Pueblo Oral history, leaving the HCNC roughly \$24K for additional projects. President Benjamin asked Don Toy to work on the Medallion's project and report back its status to Board at next meeting. Correction from Don Toy, actually no monies left to give out as the 24K is already earmarked.

8. Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: Brian Kito, research report and committee formation. Brian will set a date and time and send out an email for the next meeting. 4:30pm Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday of March. 1 hour meeting.

Action Committee Meeting, Friday 2/25 at 12 Noon at Koban.

9. Public Comments

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

Next meeting 2nd Tuesday of March, March 8th, at Los Angeles Theatre Academy (LATA), Solano Canyon.

Action Committee Meeting? Brian will send out email.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

11. New Business

12. Old Business: **Kim Benjamin requested that Don Toy work with the DONE Staff and the approved vendors to move the funding along on the two outstanding projects that the Board previously approved for Chinatown, namely the: (a) Medallions/Streetscape Improvements for \$ 12,500 and (b) the Lanterns/Zumar Project for \$ 13,000. Neither has been funded yet, although the later is close to being paid per the Demand Warrant we issued.. Time is of the**

essence so that these funds will not be lost.. Kim requested that Don report back to the board on this at our next meeting.

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.