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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, Nov 8th, 2011, 6:00 p.m. Lot 613, 613 Imperial St, LA CA 90021 (map attached)

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

President Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:08pm for information only, no quorum yet. At 6:45pm we had a quorum and meeting was called to order.

President Benjamin introduced and thanked Garrett of Lot 613 who set up our meeting for us tonight in their facilities. He explained that Lot 613 had come to the HCNC to request a Letter of Support for the CUP application and had been willing to work with the Arts District caucus and the HCNC Board to modify their application pertinent to our concerns. He asked Garrett to explain to the board what Lot 613 is and does: Lot 613 is a full service catering company along with renting premises out for parties, weddings, art galleries, photo shoots, commercials, theater, etc. Tim Keating said they are doing a theater event here the first week of January, which the HCNC Board will be invited to.

Present: Angie An, Kim Benjamin, Alicia Brown, Alejandra Flores, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Ne Hung Hom, Tim Keating, Brian Kito, George Poon, Mark Rothenberg, Chase Rummonds, Hoover Tang, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Alex Vasquez, Danny Young, George Yu.

Absent: Ne Hay Hom, Steven Jimenez, Alan Kumamoto, Peter Lau, Tak Hung Lau, Peter Lee, Yee Lim, Shaojiao Luo, Peter Martinez, Mandi Masai, Howard Nishimura, Steve Rice, Charlie Woo.

Staff: Anne Walrath

Guests: Ginny Brideau, Larry Jung, Raquel King, Scot Ezzell, Garret Shank, David Louie, Valerie Mitchell, Takeomi Tada, Valerie Hanley.

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes each

Ginny Brideau: Regional Corridor Transit Corridor. Handout. Metro will release the final environmental document end of November. Waiting for MTA to give final okay for release to Public. The Metro Board of Directors would be making a decision on the Environmental Document at their January 26th meeting. Then expect a Record of Decision to be forwarded to Metro by the end of February. All of this to say we're having the next round of Station Design meetings in March. As soon as we get that approval we'll be coming back to the public and talking about Station Design. Construction could start in late 2013 based on this calendar. ETA on Completion 2019. \$1.3 Billion dollars. Exact jobs created unknown, but a significant number.

Larry Jung of LA Chinatown Corp: update/address the Bruce Lee statue/Central Plaza location issue. Corp is not interested in just parking the stature in the middle of one of their streets in Central Plaza. They have requested the Statue be placed in a design area, possibly a sitting and dining area, in one

of the minor streets. We chose a minor street because we want to avoid conflicts with our filming business which happens on the main streets of Chinatown. So that leaves only one street actually that is not encumbered by filming. The project is in preliminary talks. Larry Jung spoke with Don Toy, the CRA and the Councilman's office a few months ago. We talked about what the Corporations expectations were and what we would like to see. Asking for preliminary designs which the CRA is doing, waiting to see the designs. Looking to enhance the space so it's more of a tourist and educational center, with seating areas to accommodate classes from the schools who come to visit Chinatown. Often you see them huddled about statues trying to give an educational lesson. Also very noisy and distracting so looking to provide an area that's more congenial to an outside classroom, and also to provide an area for people to sit and relax, or sit and eat and enjoy Chinatown. Since the Statue was acquired there have been no concrete proposals until now. Don Toy says he talked with George Yu and Chinatown doesn't want to see something just plunked down and then not know who is going to maintain it and take care of it. All this has to be part of the proposal. They now have people involved to raise funds and get \$250K to do something nice and useable for the community. The project has better leadership now. The person from the Bruce Lee Foundation is actually Bruce Lee's daughter, Shannon. She now has a better understanding of what is needed for the project as she works with the new people involved in this.

3. Approval of Minutes for June 14th, 2011 – Mark Rothenberg
Don Toy made motion to approve the minutes and George Poon seconded. Don Toy says "Good job." Vote is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.
4. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Peter Martinez
Motion to Postpone NC elections until 2014 as determined by the City's 2011-2012 Budget and Administrative Code restrictions placed on the City Clerk, leave current Board Members in their respective seats until then and fill out survey.
Motion to approve no NC Elections until 2014 and survey made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Don Toy. Vote is Unanimous (18). Motion Approved.
5. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, new and previously approved. Brian Kito. President Benjamin noted that all these projects were vetted at the Action Committee meeting last week and they are dollars that the HCNC actually has to spend in its budget. Also noted that we need to have the Demands Warrants with all required paperwork to Anne by April 1st so they can be vetted and turned into DONE by April 15th. If Demand Warrant and all required paperwork not into DONE by April 15th we will lose the money for the project.
Report from Brian Kito on Action Committee held on November 3rd, 2011.
 - 5.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items.
 - A. Tim Keating: Request for \$2,500 Matching grant with Laraba \$2500 total project \$5,000
Purpose: Printing of Uncommon Ground 500 booklets. Note: this is a repeat project.
5 years ago did a one day seminar with everyone and all the politicians, we had about 100 people and decided where we wanted to go in the next 10 years, it gave us a direction on how we wanted to develop the neighborhood. Last night the LARABA Board put up \$2,500 for this project. For \$5,000 will do a great job, last time only had \$3,000 and only had 100 of these catalogues, we'll have 500 this time and make sure everyone gets one. Really important this time as many new things happening in the Arts District, there's a new subway coming in, a new rail station coming in, several big new projects about to break ground. Its time to decide how we want to proceed and make it a great neighborhood so that's what this is about. HCNC will be acknowledged on the booklets that this is the second time the HCNC has supported Uncommon Ground.
Motion to approve \$2,500 for printing of 500 Uncommon Ground booklets made by Tim Keating and seconded by Angie An. Vote is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.
 - B. Angie An/ Raquel King/Valerie Mitchell (Medallion Designer): Handout. The Medallions will be attached to the Bureau of Street Lighting poles identifying the Arts District. Project is in phase 3, formalizing the design. CRA has already funded 40 poles within CRA boundaries (South of 4th St). Goal is to place Medallion signage on an additional 36 poles within and framing the Arts

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District north of 4th Street. Requesting \$3,750 from the HCNC for Medallions to be installed on 15 poles north of 4th Street. Total cost per Medallion installed is \$1,500. Conditions: 1. HCNC =15 poles (cost: \$22,500). 2. HCNC would contribute \$3,750 and would raise an additional \$3,750 from Property Owners/HCNC Board Members. 3. Medallion Committee would raise an additional \$15,000 from BID and other sources, and subject to the 15 pole locations the Medallion committee approves. HCNC would be acknowledged on the project, either by a metal plate below the Medallion and attached to the pole, or some other manner to be determined at a later date.

Motion to approve \$3,750 from the HCNC for the AD Medallion project, subject to conditions above, made by Angie An and seconded by Mark Rothenberg. Vote is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

5.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

A. Don Toy: Request for \$4,000 Matching grant for 1 third of \$12,000 Fan Canopy project. Note: \$8,000 to come from other sources. Purpose: restore large Fan canopy in Park. Park is one of the smallest but one of the most used parks in Chinatown. Pergola in shape of fan done 18 years ago and needs to be rehabilitated. The seniors use the area to play checkers, families use it to eat lunch.

Motion to approve \$4,000 for Fan Canopy project made by Don Toy and second by George Poon. Vote is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

B. Don Toy: Request for \$5,000 of a \$20,000 Bench and Landscape project. Purpose: Buy benches and do landscaping to flatten the areas for the seating. Note: other funding from CRA / other sources. Adjoining the Alpine Rec Center and the Pergola is an empty space but not level or inviting, want to make habitable and inviting for families to use with landscaping and benches and lighting. Condition: There will be 4 benches with a plaque on each bench acknowledging the HCNC in Chinese, English and Spanish.

Motion to approve \$5,000 for Bench and Landscape project, subject to conditions above, made by Don Toy and seconded George Poon. Motion is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

5.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

\$ 3,750 for a TBD El Pueblo Project. This amount was vetted at the Action Committee.

Motion to approve the allocation of \$3,750 for an El Pueblo Project, subject to approval of project made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Don Toy. Motion is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

5.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

\$ 3,750 for a Little Tokyo project TBD. This amount was vetted at the Action Committee.

Motion to approve the allocation of \$3,750 for an Little Tokyo Project, subject to approval of project made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Don Toy. Motion is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

President Benjamin asked both the El Pueblo caucus and the Little Tokyo caucus to have their projects ready to be presented at the next HCNC Board meeting.

5.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items

Alicia Brown: Request for \$3,750 for Neighborhood Garden Education and Outreach project. Will be done very natural, i.e. logs for benches, may use one or two benches, something rustic, not much construction. Two people interested in doing the design, giving them an estimate. Will have education and workshops, and doing things with the children in the spring or summer. Have railroad ties as steps in the garden, a donation 10 years ago and may be able to expand that so we have a trail. Infrastructure, environment and education on sustainable gardening. Would like to do this annually.

Motion for allocation of \$3,750 for the SC Neighborhood Garden Education and Outreach project made by Alicia Brown and second by Danny Young. Vote is unanimous (18). Motion Approved.

5.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.

\$ 3,750 for Victor Heights Identity Signage program. Chase: asked where the funding came from for the Chinatown signage. Don Toy said they went to city for funding but with the budget crunch it may be out. President Benjamin noted that with the budget crunch relying on the City for Funding wouldn't be a good idea, asked what project can Victor Heights control themselves and not rely on someone else? Chase appreciates that, will meet with Neighborhood Watch tomorrow to vet their project. Will come back in January with answer.

Motion to allocate \$3,750 for Identity Signage program by Chase Rummonds and seconded by Hoover Tang. Motion is unanimous. Motion Approved.

5.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

5.8 Youth Outreach.

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

6.1 SC Non Profit Seat: haven't found anyone yet.

6.2 At Large Youth Seat: Martin Farfan looking at Cathedral for a student.

6.3 HCNC Board Member Attendance at HCNC meetings.

HCNC Bylaws: Article VII – 4. An officer or member of the Board of Directors will be removed from office if he fails to attend any three Board meetings during a calendar year without reasonable justification as determined by the majority of the Board and that officer or Board member shall be so notified. President Benjamin asked each caucus to look at their members attendance and come back next meeting with suggestions to replace the none attending board members.

7. Treasurer's Report: George Yu

8. Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: Brian Kito, research report and committee formation.

9. Public Comments: Alicia Brown introduced PTA president Tom Tada, Solano Elementary School, Blue Ribbon School. APR scores up above 900. An LAUSD school. Been hit hard by staffing cutbacks. K-12 with a pre-school. Trying to expand to 7 and 8th grade in the next 2 years. Serves Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Echo Park and Solano Canyon. The PTA has put together amazing programs in the last year. 105 years old. Castelar is the 2nd oldest school in LA. Majority of parent population is non-English speaking. This year translation services has been cut out. Trying to find a way to hire someone to do the translations. DT suggests he contact Castelar's Principal.

10. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change. No Meeting December. January 10th, 2012. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

11. New Business

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.