

APPROVED 6/12/12

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
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**General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 08th 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Chinatown 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, Grayce Liu at 213-847-5026.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Present: Angie An, Kim Benjamin, Alicia Brown, Alejandra Flores, Norma Garcia, Tim Keating, Brian Kito, Alan Kumamoto, Blake Martin, Peter Martinez, Lydia Moreno, George Poon, Steve Rice, Mark Rothenberg, Al Soo-Hoo, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Alex Vasquez, Danny Young, George Yu. (20)
Absent: Ron Fong, Ne Hay Hom, Ne Hung Hom, Peter Lau, Tak Hung Lau, Peter Lee, Yee Lim, Shaojiao Luo, Steve Nagano, Howard Nishimura, Chase Rummonds, Hoover Tang, Charlie Woo.
Staff: Anne Walrath
Guests: Jian Hua Tani, Raymond Yu, Henry Woo, Valerie Hanley, Take Tada, Paul Mackley, Sara Harris.

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes each
Raymond Yu made several community announcements.

Valery Hanley commented that the agenda is not the same as the one that was sent out. Thought there were action items not within the 72 hour announcement window. President Benjamin thanked her for her comments and replied that there were a couple versions of the agenda and the wrong one was mailed out but the correct agenda was emailed out to the board members within the 72 hour window.

Opening comments by President Benjamin: Dodger ownership has changed, looking for great things to happen in the community around Dodger Stadium, about ingress, egress, development, Mr. McCourt got to keep an interest in the parking lot and the development rights but we don't have details on the contract. Major League Baseball asked and were denied access to those reports, he's keeping \$14 million dollars a year in an annual stipend. The Dodgers now have more money than anyone else in Baseball. So its possible that we could see the historic teams of the 60's and 70's back in some other form.

3. Approval of Minutes for Mar 20th, 2012 – Mark Rothenberg

Motion to approve the minutes of March 20th with correction on Item 2, paragraph 4, “residences in the Chung King Road and Central Plaza areas” made by Alan Kumamoto and seconded by Tim Keating. Unanimous. Minutes approved.

4. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Peter Martinez / Kim Benjamin

Neighborhood Elections are still up in the air. City Council has in the mayor's budget, which was sent to the City Council's Budget Committee, that they allocate \$650,000 for the Elections, that the city oversee and that they proceed with 97 elections in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. DONE's Survey that was recorded by the City Clerk's office that went out to the 97 NC's in December and January, and of the 97 NC's that replied, only 33 submitted that they wanted 2012 elections. Most all of them 77%, said they wanted the City Clerk's office to run them again like they did in 2010. The Clerk's office said it would cost them another \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million, City said no, we don't have that money, Mayor's office came back with \$650,000. DONE said \$633,000 and each NC paid their own outreach costs. There is a lot of discussion about what they're going to do. Will be considered the rest of this week.

We've spent all our money and this is the first year that all 97 NC's have encumbered or spent all of their money so the system isn't broken and the NC's have figured it out. Some NC's had 5 voters in their NC Election in 2010, we had 1175, and we weren't the biggest, Westwood had almost 2,000 voters and Greater Griffith Park had 1600 or 1700. So there were 21,000 voters, one NC had 5 and about 41 had between 5 and 99 voters, which is kind of depressing because they had the same amount of money allocated to them that we did, so there's something out of wack there. President Benjamin brought that up on the phone with one of the Councilmen. When we first had Elections DONE has a staff of 65, today they have a staff of 17. When the Office of the City Clerk ran our Elections in 2010 they had 152 employees, today they have under 100. In 2010 they spent \$1.1 million dollars, they now want to cut that to \$400,000. And the City Clerk doesn't want to touch this. DONE said they'd do it, but they're going to have two more staff members cut with this year's budget cuts. Interesting to note that when the Clerk's office took on the Election's in 2010 the NC's stipend dropped \$9,500 from \$50,000 to \$40,500, and 97 times \$9,500 equals \$921,500, or pretty close to the \$1.1 million cost of the elections, while their saying that we're not paying for the election costs. Its disingenuous. And now they're cutting our budget from \$40,500 to \$37,000 or \$3,500 per NC which equals \$339,500, almost the \$400,000 allocated to DONE for Election costs. Very disingenuous.

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.
 - 5.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.
 - 5.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.
 - 5.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.
 - 5.4A LTPS 25th Anniversary Video. 2/7/12 \$1,000.
 - 5.4B 2012 Tanabata \$1,250 3/20/12.
 - 5.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items
 - 5.5A SC Garden Project \$3,750 11/8/11
 - 5.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items.
 - 5.6A VH Identity Signage Program 11/8/11 \$3,750.
 - 5.7 At-Large Projects and Action Items.
 - 5.8 Youth Outreach.

6. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin
 - 6.1 Discussion of proposed NC Elections and the City budget. HCNC Region 6, 9/24 – 9/30. See recording. Did under Item 4. Elections.

 - 6.2 Discussion and motion for HCNC Letter of Opposition to Metro Plaza Hotel CUP. Page 9
Eric J. H. Tan President/CEO Metro Plaza Hotel 711 N Main St 213-620-9598
Eric@themetropolazahotel.com 213-680-0200. Hotel has been in Chinatown for over 20 years, 80 rooms. Hotel has no bar, no restaurant. Store would be open 8am to 10pm. It's a convenience store for our hotel guests, the beer and wine makes up a very small percentage of the convenience store but it meets the needs of our guests, they come back from their meetings and they want to relax and they want to have some drinks. And after 6pm all the shops are closed, that's why we opened a convenience store. We understand the concern regarding the homeless people and the drunk people in Chinatown but we

cannot deny the right of our guests to have some beer or wine. Know the agenda has both Metro Hotel and Macy Liquor and their liquor requests. Macy Liquor store has been there over 20 years. We know some drunk people go there to buy their liquor and we hate it, but its still there because there is a demand. There is only one Liquor store in Chinatown. We can only solve the problem through competition, if you allow our petition for beer and wine then we'll do a better job, and maybe through this competition Macy Liquor will go away. Stan Zito: helping Mr. Tan obtain his CUP. Store opened in December, much bigger than Macy's store, facing Main Street, very well lit, similar to 7-11, have 8 surveillance cameras throughout the store. Realize the problem with the homeless but that is because of conditions and not our fault. Most of our revenue comes from our guests, and we don't want to be a magnet for more homelessness.

General Discussion.

Motion to support HCNC Letter of Opposition to Metro Plaza Hotel CUP made by Alan Kumamoto and seconded by Mark Rothenberg. Unanimous. Motion approved.

6.3 Discussion and motion for Macy Liquor Letter of Opposition. Page 12 June 5th at 10am hearing. George Yu spoke about the problems the community has had with Macy's Liquor and public drunkenness. General Discussion.

Motion to support HCNC Letter of Opposition to Macy's Liquor CUP made by George Yu and seconded by Don Toy. Unanimous. Motion approved.

President Benjamin spoke about the Petition opposing both Metro Plaza Hotel and Macy's Liquor CUP's for the hearings. First hearing is on May 17th for Metro Plaza Hotel.

6.4 Chinatown ICO Motion. Page 16 Walmart is proceeding with their store. Got their permit.

6.5 Report on Grievance Letter. Executive Committee tried to arrange a meeting to hear the grievance petition filed but was not able to arrange a mutually acceptable time to do so and is working on the matter.

7. Treasurer's Report: George Yu/Anne Walrath

Discussion and vote on the HCNC 2012-2013 Fiscal budget. Page 6

Motion to approve HCNC 2012-2013 budget in the amounts of \$40,500 with approval to amend budget higher or lower by \$5,500 and authorize Anne Walrath to complete budget in amount stipulated by DONE and turn it into DONE made by Don Toy and seconded by Danny Young. Unanimous. Motion approved.

8. Public Comments

9. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change. Next Meeting June 12th, if necessary, with a summer hiatus in July or August.

10. New Business

11. Old Business

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

12. 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.