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Alan Kumamoto, President
Lydia Moreno, 1st Vice President
George Yu, 2nd Vice President
Laura Velkei, 3rd Vice President
Shirley Zhang 4th Vice President
Lydia Moreno, Treasurer
Shirley Zhang, Secretary

H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL
c/o Koban 307 E First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

President: akumamoto@aol.com.com
hcncla@gmail.com
t. 213. 849.0012
f. 213. 613.0282

APPROVED

General Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 6:30-8:30 PM
Japanese American Cultural Center
244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

1.0 Call to Order

At 6:35 P.M., President Alan Kumamoto called meeting to order. 25 members were present and quorum was established. Board Members signed in Attendance Sheet.

Present (26 members): Alan Kumamoto, Lydia Moreno, Laura Velkei, Shirley Zhang, June Aochi-Berk, Mark Rothenberg, Christopher Fudurich, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Gabrielle Newmark, George Rollins, Ly Chou Tran, Wai So Yuan, Ne Huang Hom, Norman Nie, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Ron Fong, Brian Kito, Howard Nishimura, Stephen Nagano, Danny Young, Alejandra Flores, Don Toy, Esther Joaquin Woo, Gi-Hao Cheung, George Yu (arrived 7:20 PM)

Absent: Andrew Lucero, Peter Hick Loon Pang, Edmond Soohoo, Richard Estrada, Yvette Grageda, Hoover Tang, Nick Curl

Public/Guests: Becky Lee, Fernando Delgado, Amanda Mejia, Melinda Ramos-Alutorre, Gabriel Owens, Brett Sheers, Yong-Gi Kim, Al Soohoo, Lauren Hom

2.0 Public Comments

President Alan Kumamoto invited speakers for public comments. No public comments were presented.

3.0 Government Agency Report

3.1. Becky Lee, representative from Congressman Becerra’s office, made 2 event announcements. (1) They will be holding Community Office Hours at the Chinatown Branch Library (639 North Hill Street) on January 28, 2016 from 2:30-4:30 PM. Caseworkers will be present to help constituents with immigration, social security, Medicare, IRS, and other federal agency issues. (2) They are holding a Congressional High School Student Arts Competition. All high school students who reside in the 34th Congressional District are eligible to participate. The deadline is March 7th.

3.2. Fernando Delgado, East LA Office field representative for Board Supervisor Hilda Solis announced that LA County is doing a study to assess the need for parks in different communities and welcomed for communities within the HCNC boundaries to provide input. They recently held a

meeting in Chinatown on January 7th and will be holding a meeting in Lincoln Park on Thursday January 14th at 7 PM.

4.0 Approval of Previous Board Minutes for September 15, 2015, October 13, 2015, November 10, 2015, and December 8, 2015 (Discussion and vote)

After reviewing the minutes, George Rollins motioned to vote to approve the September, October, November, and December meeting minutes. Chris Fudurich seconded. Alan Kumamoto opened the item for discussion.

Don Toy mentioned that some members who just received the meeting minutes may not be able to vote since they did not have enough time to review. Mr. Kumamoto responded that the September, October, and November meeting minutes were distributed at the last few meetings.

Motion to approve the September, October, November, and December meeting minutes was passed.

18 Yay, 0 Nay, 7 abstentions (Ly Chou Tran, Wai So Yuan, Ne Huang Hom, Norman Nie, Gi-Hao Cheung, Esther Joaquin Woo, Don Toy)

5.0 Treasurer's Report

Lydia Moreno reported that the only update for December was to reissue a check for \$2,000 to Industrial District Green that was lost. She reminded the board that the expense was previously approved by the City, but may want to reapprove to be on the Treasurer's Report as a precaution.

Laura Velkei motioned to accept that the expense be put into the Treasurer's Report. Danny Young seconded the motion.

Motion to approve that the reissue of the \$2,000 Industrial District Green check be put in the Treasurer's Report was passed.

24 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 abstentions, Gabrielle Numark recused her vote.

6.0 President's Report

6.1 By-Laws Update, Article VII, Number 4

Alan Kumamoto announced that he just received the most updated by-laws from HCNC that are dated June 2015. The updates include additional language based on the Brown Act and Ethics Commission. Attachment B also has the description of the Boards seats and the eligibility criteria to run and vote for the seats.

Mr. Kumamoto also reviewed Article VII, Number 4 concerning language around establishing a quorum. The language specifically states that HCNC needs 17 to establish quorum. However, if a board member has any more than 3 unexcused absences in the calendar year, they are subject to being removed from the Board. Mr. Kumamoto said that if people provide a written or e-mailed excuse ahead of time then that constitutes as an excused absence.

Yuval Bar-Zemer asked who has the authority to approve the By-Laws within DONE and requested that the HCNC Board receive valid documentation of the approval of the By-Laws. Mr. Kumamoto offered to look into the process and report back to the Board.

6.1.1 Solano Canyon Caucus recommendation for new board member, Gabriel Owens (Discussion and Vote)

Lydia Moreno announced that the Solano Canyon Caucus would like to recommend Gabriel

Owens as a new Solano Canyon Board member who will replace Alejandra Flores. Mr. Owen introduced himself to the board. He is a resident of Solano Canyon, currently attends Eagle Rock High School, and is an active member of the Los Angeles Theater Academy.

Laura Velkei motioned to approve Gabriel Owens to become an HCNC Board Member. George Rollins seconded the motion.

Motion to approve Gabriel Owens as an HCNC Board Member was passed.

24 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 abstentions, Alejandra Flores recused her vote.

6.2 2015-16 Strategic Plan

Mr. Kumamoto reported that he does not have updates on the Strategic Plan.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Action Committee Report

Alan Kumamoto announced that Lydia Moreno has one request pending for the Action Committee to review. Ms. Moreno explained that the request is for a dog park in the Arts District and even though the paperwork is ready, they have not had an Actions Committee meeting since they usually wait to hold one when they have 2-3 projects. Mr. Kumamoto clarified that the Board cannot vote on the item because they Action Committee has not held the meeting. He asked if any other caucuses have pending projects. Valerie Garcia and Brian Kito said that they may have projects for their caucuses. Ms. Moreno asked them to contact her so that they can hold a meeting. Mr. Kumamoto recommended that they hold a meeting before the next board meeting.

7.2 Urban Design/Land Use Committee

7.2.1 Draft Guidelines and Procedures submitted by Ron Fong 12/23/15 (Discussion and Vote)

Alan Kumamoto explained that the Executive Committee requested that Ron Fong reviewed the previously drafted guidelines and procedures to make a new draft that addresses past concerns about the authority of the committee. Ron Fong motioned to accept the draft guidelines and procedures as presented. Danny Young seconded the motion. Alan Kumamoto opened the item for discussion.

Mark Rothenberg thanked Mr. Fong for drafting the current guidelines. He raised concerns about the lack of quorum for several board meetings, which has not allowed the UD/LUC to move forward on requests. He and Laura Velkei also said that other board members should attend the UD/LUC meetings to learn more about the details of the projects. Mr. Rothenberg felt that given the time and effort to review each project, to provide a short summary at the board meetings with the possibility that the board may override the UD/LUC recommendation seems unfair. Ms. Velkei and Yuval Bar-Zemer also indicated that development is very critical right now. Mr. Bar-Zemer expressed that the UD/LUC is an important component of the neighborhood council and that they should be provided with the appropriate tools. He recommended that they also add that if a quorum is absent, that the Executive Board convene to vote on the UD/LUC recommendations and to have a timeframe for when they should take action, so that projects are not stuck. Mr. Kumamoto responded by saying that the Executive Board did convene in December to approve the last recommendations and that 3 letters went

out for those projects.

Ron Fong thanked Mr. Rothenberg for drafting the first versions. He indicated that his major concerns with the UD/LUC are the possibility that a project could be voted on without a neighborhood representative at the meeting and that UD/LUC could potentially send letters out without the knowledge of the board. He addressed Mr. Bar-Zemer's concern by indicating that the new guidelines do allow for an expedited process. He also pointed out that the new draft does not require a unanimous vote and only needs a simple majority at the committee or executive level. Brian Kito felt that this current draft, particularly the language around a majority vote, is a good compromise.

Shirley Zhang expressed concerns that the board could override a recommendation to approve a project that the community may want. Don Toy and Ron Fong both indicated that the board and committee has been good in the past about checking in with the caucuses and seeking their opinions.

After 20 minutes of discussion, Alan Kumamoto asked if the board was in favor to end the discussion and vote. All board members voted yes.

Motion to approve the UD/LUC Guidelines and Procedures (12/23/2015 Draft) was passed.

26 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 abstentions

After the vote, Valerie Garcia asked for clarification about the purpose of UD/LUC holding joint meetings with LARABA. Laura Velkei indicated that they are trying this out to make it easier for the developers and board members and that the votes for UD/LUC and LARABA are separate. Brian Kito suggested that LARABA may want to hold meetings separate, so that HCNC can be a supporting element to LARABA's recommendations, similar to the Little Tokyo Community Council. Yuval Bar-Zemer indicated that the LARABA members can be considered members of the public. Ron Fong supported the presence of LARABA at the UD/LUC because it's the Arts District's way of getting more community input. Ms. Velkei suggested that the Little Tokyo Community Council members also attend the UD/LUC.

7.2.2 Master CUP vs. individual CUP applications (Discussion and Vote)

George Yu asked for clarification about this item. Yuval Bar-Zemer explained that when developers ask for a Master CUP of alcohol, there is a potential of 10-12 spaces of users. If they approve the Master CUP, then the end users do not have to show up to be approved, which can undermine the ability of the community to understand how the space is being used. He explained that the Arts District and LARABA have decided on the policy to not support Master CUPS and instead have asked developers to present each potential user. Chris Fudurich motioned that the HCNC not support Master CUB applications. Laura Velkei seconded the motion. Alan Kumamoto opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Yu expressed concerns that this process may work for the Arts District, but it should not be applied to all the neighborhoods. He indicated that from his experience he has had Master CUPS approved with all operators. He felt that this would make it more difficult to get approvals from city planning and the zoning administrator. Mark Rothenberg indicated that he has seen developers receive approval of their Master CUPS and the operators do not present back to the community. They do not know who they are, their hours of operation, or their alcohol sales.

He feels that they need to put safeguards in place to protect the community. Valerie Garcia said that each caucus should support each other according to what works best for the community, and if Chinatown feels this will not work, the other neighborhoods should not tell them to do it a different way.

Yuval Bar-Zemer requested to amend the motion to make a distinction between developers who have users identified vs. those who don't. He motions that if a Master CUP project has identified all the users, then the HCNC can vote on it. Gabrielle Numark seconds this motion. Laura Velkei and Chris Fudurich accept the amended motion.

Motion that "HCNC will not support a Master CUP unless all users in the Master CUP application are identified" was passed.

25 Yay, 1 Nay (George Yu), 0 abstentions

7.3 Elections Committee

Alan Kumamoto announced that they will need representatives for Little Tokyo and El Pueblo for the upcoming elections. Don Toy asked for clarification about the representatives for Chinatown and Victor Heights. Mr. Kumamoto responded that Mr. Toy is the representative for Victor Heights and Edmund Soohoo is the representative for Chinatown.

7.4 Marketing Committee

Brian Kito said that he still needs to hold a meeting to finalize the brochure. He would like to get one person from each caucus to attend the meeting. Mr. Kito is aiming for the brochure to be approved by next month.

8.0 Old/New Business

8.1 Gabrielle Numark announced that they will have a tree planting event in Victor Heights on Saturday January 23rd starting at 9 AM. They will be meeting on Whiteknoll and Alpine streets.

9.0 Government Agency Reports Continued

9.1 Amanda Mejia, East LA field representative for the Mayor's Office, introduced herself to the Board. She is the field representative for most of HCNC, except for Little Tokyo and the Arts District, but can connect those constituents to the appropriate representative. She announced that DONE has asked for people to participate in the civic university in February. She also announced that the city just released a homelessness strategy report.

9.2 Melinda Ramos-Alutorre, Community District 1 field representative, distributed the winter publication of 1 Voice. There is also a digital copy available. She also announced some upcoming events, including the Firecracker Run and the Fig Jam on Figueroa Street.

9.3 Young-Gi Kim, representative from LA Metro, provided maps and handouts about the free shuttle service from Union Station during the Gold Line construction.

9.4. Brett Sheers, independent elections officer, announced that online voting registration launched a month ago and that candidate registration opened on January 21st. Registration closes on March

5th. Mr. Sheers provided more information on translation issues and say that the city can provide translations of the ballot if requested, but the translation for outreach is up to the candidates.

10.0 President Kumamoto adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

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 Koban 307 E 1st Street, LA 90012 . 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) of the meeting you wish to attend by contacting hcncla@gmail.com or by calling 323/849-0012

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