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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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APPROVED

General Board Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 6:30-8:00 PM
Art Share L.A., 801 E 4th Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90013, United States

1.0 Call to Order

At 6:40 P.M., Vice President Lydia Moreno called meeting to order. 19 members were present and quorum was established. Board Members signed in the Attendance Sheet.

Present (20 members): Lydia Moreno, Laura Velkei, June Aochi-Berk, Mark Rothenberg, Christopher Fudurich, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Gabrielle Newmark, George Rollins, Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Norman Nie (arrived 7:30 PM), Edmond Soohoo, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Ron Fong, Brian Kito, Stephen Nagano, Danny Young, Gabriel Owens, Don Toy,

Absent: Alan Kumamoto, Shirley Zhang, George Yu, Andrew Lucero, Peter Hick Loon Pang, Wai So Yuan, Howard Nishimura, Esther Joaquin Woo, Gi-Hao Cheung, Richard Estrada, Yvette Grageda, Hoover Tang, Nick Curl

Public/Guests: Stephen Box (DONE), Laureen Hom (notetaker), Yong-Gi Kim

Ne Huang Hom commented that Wai So Yuan, Esther Joaquin Woo, and Gi-Hao Cheung are absent for the meeting due to emergency health issues.

Lydia Moreno moved agenda items needing votes to the beginning of the meeting so that board members who needed to leave the meeting by 7:45 PM could vote on items. Agenda Items 2.0 (Public Comments), 3.0 (Government Agency Report), and 7.2 (Elections) were moved to the end of the meeting.

4.0 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (January & February 2016)

Lydia Moreno commented that copies of the January 12, 2016 meeting minutes are ready to be reviewed and approved. The Executive Committee Special Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2016 is not available yet, so they will table that vote for the next meeting. Danny Young made the motion to approve the January 12, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes. Mark Rothenberg seconded.

Motion to approve the January 2016 Board Meeting Minutes is approved.

15 Yays, 2 Nays (Ne Huang Hom, Ly Chou Tran), 2 Abstentions (Don Toy, Edmund Soohoo)

5.0 President's Report

President Kumamoto was absent so President's Report was not presented.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

6.1.1-6.1.3. Lydia Moreno explained that the first item that needed to be approved was the January Expense Report, which included \$350 expense for the website, \$200 for translation, and \$2,000 for the Arts District tree project, which is also a re-issued check. Brian Kito motioned to approve the January Expense Report. Don Toy seconded.

Motion to approve the January 2016 Monthly Expense Report is approved.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

6.1.4. Lydia Moreno indicated that there were zero expenses for February 2016 but that there still needs to be approval for the February expense report. George Rollins motioned to approve the February Expense Report. Brian Kito seconded.

Motion to approve the February 2016 Monthly Expense Report is approved.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

6.1.2-6.1.8 Action Committee project items were moved to Agenda Item 7.1

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Action Committee Projects

Lydia Moreno summarized that the Arts District, El Pueblo, and Solano Canyon caucuses each have 2 pending projects that need to be approved. These 6 projects were approved by their individual caucuses and vetted through the Action Committee already. Edmund Soohoo commented that there are other pending projects. Chinatown has 2 pending projects. The first is \$2000 for Castellar Elementary for their music program and the second is for \$2000 for Alpine Recreation Center for their basketball league. In addition, Victor Heights is also asking for funding to conduct research for their promotional brochure. Mr. Soohoo noted that all of these are in process and pending completed paperwork. Yuval Bar-Zemer made a motion to approve all Action Committee projects that have completed their paperwork (Arts District, El Pueblo, and Solano Canyon projects). Laura Velkei seconded.

Motion to approve the Action Committee projects that have completed their paperwork passed.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

7.3 Urban Design/Land Use Committee

Mark Rothenberg provided summaries of each project and recommendation for the board to approve.

7.3.2 Approve a letter to support for Alternative C for the proposed Metro Maintenance of Way (MOW) facility in the Arts District.

7.3.3 Approve a letter of support for D.C. Berridge, LLC for Berridge Restaurant. Yuval Bar-Zemer and Ron Fong indicated that they at the time of the presentation they did not have a public hearing scheduled and were supposed to come back after it is scheduled. Mr. Rothenberg announced that they will amend this recommendation to postpone submitting a letter until they come back and present to the community.

7.3.4 Approve a letter of support for the 5K Fun Run. Mr. Rothenberg asked for clarification if a letter of support is necessary. Laura Velkei explained that they while it is not a requirement, a letter helps to support them. Valerie Garcia-Hanley explained that the organizer has reached out to them, as well as Chinatown representative George Yu about the street closures. Ms.

Garcia-Hanley says that she was not aware that he needed a letter. Don Toy asked for clarification about what streets were closed. Ms. Garcia-Hanley said she was not sure about the exact streets, but they appear to be along the outskirts of the Chinatown neighborhood along Spring Street. She also noted that it is a 5K so the race is not very long and that they plan to finish by 9:30 AM. Mr. Toy indicated that the organizer may still need to get approval from the Spring Street merchants since some of the dim sum restaurants open as early as 7 AM. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned that the board send a letter of support with a friendly amendment that the organizers follow the standard rules of engagement with the community businesses.

7.3.5 Approve a letter of support for the Great Foods Corporation which is currently operating in Weller Court in Little Tokyo.

7.3.6 Approve a letter of support for Hauser Wirth & Schimmel Gallery restaurant.

Yuval Bar Zemer motioned to approve all the UD/LUC recommendations for letters of support (Items 7.3.2-7.3.6) with the friendly amendments for Items 7.3.3 & 7.3.4 (Berridge Restaurant & 5K Fun Run). Don Toy seconded.

Motion to approve the UD/LUC recommendations for letters of support for Items 7.3.2-7.3.6 with friendly amendments for 7.3.3 & 7.3.4 passed.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions

8.0 Old/New Business

8.1 Yuval Bar-Zemer presented and distributed handouts on the “Adopt a Median” project in the Arts District that requires a letter of support from HCNC. Alan Sonfist, an environmental art from New York, is planning to do a sculpture in the intersection of Banning & Center. Chris Fudurich requested for a written description of the project in addition to the handouts. Don Toy asked who would be responsible for maintaining the sculpture. Mr. Bar-Zemer responded that a part of the application process is to develop a maintenance agreement with one of the neighborhood groups. Brian Kito asked if adjacent property owners were aware. Mr. Bar-Zemer confirmed that they are. Mark Rothenberg asked for more explanation of the artwork. Mr. Bar-Zemer explained that the sculpture is of tree limbs that have been casted from indigenous trees prior to urban development. In addition, the base and the area of the sculpture will be landscaped with indigenous plants. He also noted that the handout is a conceptual representation and is not the final design. Laura Velkei motioned to approve a letter of support for the Adopt a Median project. Don Toy seconded.

Motion to write a letter of support for the Adopt a Median project is approved.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

8.2 Laura Velkei asked Stephen Box, DONE representative, if they could vote on changing the general board meeting times to 6:30 PM even though it is not on the agenda. She explained that she was told that they need to vote on the time change as a board or else they have to continue calling it a “special meeting.” Mr. Box indicated that this would be fine. Laura Velkei motioned to change the HCNC General Board meeting starting time from 6 PM to 6:30 PM. George Rollins seconded.

Motion to change the HCNC General Board meeting starting time to 6:30 PM is approved.

19 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Lydia Moreno announced that they finished discussion of all items needing votes and will now discuss the non-actionable agenda items.

2.0 Public Comments

2.1. Parents from Castellar Elementary School in Chinatown presented their concerns regarding the possible co-location of Metro Charter School at Castellar Elementary School in Chinatown that will be voted on April 1st. They expressed concerns that 6 classrooms were deemed empty but are actually being used by students and staff for various programs and activities, including their music program, arts classes, and computer labs. The parents also were concerned that the co-location would affect the current students at Castellar as the school has historically been a safehaven for the underserved community in Chinatown. They explained that it is currently a model public school with little violence and bullying and currently has a high API school, which may change with the co-location. Danny Young asked about the school administration's response to which the parents responded that they cannot protest this issue. The parents added that they have received letters of support to oppose the co-location from different community groups in Chinatown. Mark Rothenberg asked about the growth of the student population. The parents responded that the school is growing and that they are planning to expand the Mandarin Dual Language program. Edmund Soohoo said that he supported the parents of Castellar, expressing concerns that having two administrations at one school would be difficult, especially for discipline issues. Don Toy echoed Mr. Soohoo's concerns. He further said that like the parents, the Chinatown community did not find out about the co-location until very recently. Mr. Toy confirmed that the parents are receiving broad support from many people in the community.

A discussion occurred among the Board Members whether they can vote on approving a letter of support for the Castellar parents from HCNC given that the item was not on the agenda. There were concerns that they needed a letter before the next HCNC Board Meeting to meet the April 1st deadline. Yuval Bar-Zemer raised concerns about signing a letter to support them without hearing the Metro Charter School's side. Brian Kito suggested that the Board move forward with the proposal that the Chinatown representatives put together a caucus to agendaize this issue for the April meeting so that it is on the agenda for the public, school board, and Metro Charter to see that a letter of support will be voted on and discuss the issue. In the meantime, individual board members can write a letter of support independently from the HCNC if they support the parents to meet the April 1st deadline. Mr. Kito said that while the HCNC letter may be late, this will still give them an official endorsement from HCNC if the board votes to support them.

3.0 Government Agency Report

3.1 Young-Gi Kim from LA Metro provided an update on the regional connector construction. They are in the active phase of construction and the traffic pattern will remain the same through May. She announced the Gold Line will re-open on March 21st. During the end of summer/beginning of fall, the tunnel boring machine will arrive and drop on 1st and Alameda and will continue under the Japanese Village Plaza parking lot in Little Tokyo.

7.3 Elections Committee

Elections Chair Yuval Bar-Zemer announced that they have posted signs about the elections in public areas to help encourage voting registration. Stephen Box made a reminder that online voting registration ends on May 5th, the same as Election Day. He clarified that individuals can do on-site voting registration at the election site. Don Toy asked for clarification about where the online voting information is available. Mr. Box answered that everything is on the EmpowerLA website. Mr. Bar-Zemer asked Mr. Box what the procedure was for any positions that do not have a qualified candidate running by the deadline. Mr. Box responded that they cannot extend the deadline nor

add any potential qualified candidates after the deadline. He explained that after the elections, the new board will be seated and they will figure out what to do with the empty seats.

Vice President Lydia Moreno adjourned the meeting at 7:40 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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