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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL
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APPROVED

Special Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
244 S San Pedro St., Los Angeles CA 90012

1.0 Call to Order

At 6:40 P.M., President Alan Kumamoto called meeting to order. 21 members were present and quorum was established. Board Members signed in the Attendance Sheet.

Present (21 members): Alan Kumamoto, Shirley Zhang, Lydia Moreno, Laura Velkei, June Aochi-Berk, Mark Rothenberg, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Gabrielle Newmark, George Rollins, Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Edmond Soohoo, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Stephen Nagano, Brian Kito, Yvette Grageda, Danny Young, Gabriel Owens, Don Toy, Gi-Hao Cheung

Absent: George Yu, Andrew Lucero, Christopher Fudurich, Peter Hick Loon Pang, Wai So Yuan, Norman Nie, Howard Nishimura, Esther Joaquin Woo, Richard Estrada, Ron Fong, Hoover Tang, Nick Curl

Public: Jeremy Frankel, Alexandra Leekley, Anika Ostin, Matthew Glaser, Michael Maier, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang

President Alan Kumamoto announced that due to time concerns, they will table public discussion to the end and move up agenda items that need to be voted on to the beginning of the meeting.

2.0 Approval of Previous Board Minutes

Alan Kumamoto asked if there needed to corrections to the March 2016 minutes but after discussion the Board decided it was not necessary. Board members reviewed the April 2016 board meeting minutes. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the April 2016 board meeting minutes. Danny Young seconded.

Motion to approve the April 2016 board meeting minutes passed.

16 Yay, 4 Nay (Ly Chou Tran, Wai So Yuan, Ne Huang Hom, Don Toy), 1 Abstention (Brian Kito)

3.0 Arts District Caucus Recommendation for Business Owner Representative

Yuval Bar-Zemer introduced Michael Maier of Impact HUB LA as the Arts District caucus recommendation for the Business Owner Representative. Mr. Maier introduced himself and explained that Impact HUB LA is a co-working space that has been in the Arts District for a year

and a half. Alan Kumamoto announced that the caucus made the recommendation to appoint Michael Maier as the Arts District Caucus Business Owner representative and the motion is on the floor for vote.

Motion to approve Michael Maier as Arts District Caucus Business Owner representative passed.

21 Yay. Unanimously approved.

While voted to be on the board, Mr. Maier was not allowed to vote on any action items during the meeting as he still needed to take the ethics and financial courses.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

Lydia Moreno provided a summary of the April 2016 expenses, which included expenses for the website and for the previously approved projects from the Arts District, Solano Canyon, and El Pueblo. Brian Kito motioned to approve the April 2016 Treasurer's Report. Laura Velkei seconded.

Motion to approve the April 2016 Treasurer's Report passed.

20 Yay, 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

5.0 Action Committee Report

Alan Kumamoto and Lydia Moreno announced that any board members who have any relationship to the projects that were being voted on for approval have to recuse themselves from voting and leave the room during discussion and vote.

5.1 Arts District

Community Partners requested \$2000 for monthly maintenance of trees between 4th and 7th and Mateo and Santa Fe. Gabrielle Newmark excused herself because she co-founded the non-profit Industrial Green, which is a project under Community Partners. Yuval Bar-Zemer excused himself because he is on the board. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the project. George Rollins seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Community Partners passed.

18 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier), 2 recused (Gabrielle Newmark, Yuval Bar-Zemer)

5.2 Little Tokyo

5.2.1 Los Angeles Tanbata requested \$2000 to support entertainment and workshops for the Tanbata Festival. Brian Kito excused himself because he is on the board. Stephen Nagano excused himself because he volunteers for the festival. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the project. Gabrielle Newmark seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Los Angeles Tanbata passed.

18 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier), 2 recused (Brian Kito, Stephen Nagano)

5.2.2 Special Services for Groups for Kizuna requested \$1000 for their Discovery Camp program, a program for youth to explore Little Tokyo. Valerie Garcia-Hanley expressed concerns during the discussion that the Little Tokyo caucus may be passing their annual budget of \$4000. Alan Kumamoto clarified that they are approving more projects in case certain projects are not approved, then they can fund other ones as back up with the possibility that they will rollover to next year. Board members discussed if this practice would be fair for all caucuses that have been proposing for projects within the \$4000 budget, as well as for the following year's board members to pre-approve projects on behalf of them. Don Toy asked if caucuses can still submit projects to the board for this fiscal year. Mr.

Kumamoto and Ms. Moreno said that all paperwork has to be approved by the board and submitted to DONE by June 1st. Mr. Kumamoto decided that this is a procedural issue that they will need to clarify at the next meeting. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the project. Valerie Garcia-Hanley seconded.

Motion to approve \$1000 for Special Services for Groups for Kizuna passed.

20 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

5.2.3 Little Tokyo Public Safety Association requested \$2000 for rededication and refurbishing of a mural on Central and Fist Street. Brian Kito excused himself because he is the president of one of the receiving organizations. Steven Nagano motioned to approve the project. June Aochi-Berk seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Little Tokyo Public Safety Association passed.

20 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier), 1 recused (Brian Kito)

5.2.4 Little Tokyo Historical Society requested \$500 for a film screening. Stephen Nagano excused himself because he is the Treasurer and member of the society. George Rollins motioned to approve the project. Laura Velkei seconded.

Motion to approve \$500 for Little Tokyo Historical Society passed.

20 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier), 1 recused (Stephen Nagano)

5.2.5 Little Tokyo Nutrition Service requested \$954 for supplies for their senior lunch program. June Aochi-Berk excused herself because she is a volunteer and represents them at the Little Tokyo Community Council. Yvette Grageda motioned to approve the project. Norma Garcia seconded.

Motion to approve \$954 for Little Tokyo Nutrition Service passed.

18 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier), 1 recused (June Aochi-Berk)

5.3 Solano Canyon

5.3.1 Los Angeles Theater Academy requested \$2000 to fund the production costs of a public service announcement about water conservation through social media. Lydia Moreno and Yvette Grageda excused themselves because they are volunteers. Gabriel Owens excused himself because his mother is the founder. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the project. Brian Kito seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Los Angeles Theater Academy passed.

17 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier), 3 recused (Gabriel Owens, Lydia Moreno, Yvette Grageda)

5.3.2 Los Angeles Community Gardens Council requested \$950 for supplies and equipment to conduct community clean-ups. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the project. Danny Young seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Los Angeles Theater Academy passed.

19 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

5.4 El Pueblo

Friends of the Chinese American Museum requested \$1000 to support a screening of the Tyrus Wong documentary. Valerie Garcia-Hanley stated that this project has not gone through the El Pueblo caucus. Lydia Moreno responded that a representative from CAM attended the Action Committee meeting in person to request the funds and during the

meeting they informed them that they have to receive caucus approval before the board can vote on it. Ms. Garcia-Hanley expressed concerns that the El Pueblo caucus may have already used their funds for the fiscal year so they may not be able to fund it. The El Pueblo caucus approved the project, however with the condition that the project is within this fiscal cycle. Brian Kito motioned to approve the project. Valerie Garcia-Hanley seconded.

Motion to approve \$1000 for the Friends of the Chinese American Museum with the condition that the project is within this fiscal cycle passed.

19 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

5.5 Chinatown

5.1 Alpine Recreation Center is requesting \$2000 for youth scholarships for their basketball sports league. At the time of the meeting, paperwork was still pending. Edmund Soohoo excused himself because he is the board president of the center. Don Toy also excused himself because he has past affiliations with Alpine Recreation Center. Lydia Moreno motioned that the project be approved with the condition that the paperwork be completed and submitted by May 17th at 5 PM. Brian Kito seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Alpine Recreation Center with the condition that all required paperwork be submitted by May 17th at 5 PM passed.

19 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

5.2 Friends & Alumni of Castelar Elementary is requesting \$2000 for science workshops. At the time of the meeting, paperwork was still pending. Edmund Soohoo excused himself because he is an alumnus of Castelar. Don Toy also excused himself because he has past affiliations with Castelar. Gi Hao Cheung motioned that the project be approved with the condition that the paperwork be completed and submitted by May 17th at 5 PM. Gabrielle Newmark seconded.

Motion to approve \$2000 for Friends & Alumni of Castelar Elementary with the condition that all required paperwork be submitted by May 17th at 5 PM passed.

19 Yay. 2 ineligible (Gabriel Owens, Michael Maier)

6.0 Urban Design and Land Use Committee Report

Mark Rothenberg provided an update on the March UDLUC meeting in which they reviewed 10 projects. He provided an update on the projects that needed board discussion and vote.

6.1 Resident Bar requested an additional letter of support to waive the CUP modification hearing. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned to approve the UDLUC recommendation for the HCNC to write an additional letter of support that would allow the waiver of the CUP modification hearing. Laura Velkei seconded.

Motion to provide an additional letter of support for Resident Bar to allow the waiver of the CUP modification hearing passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

6.2 cARTel requested a letter of support, however the date had already passed. Laura Velkei suggested that they still vote on whether they approve of the project to have it on record in case they ask for a future request. Mark Rothenberg suggested that it may not be necessary since this is their last event. Valerie Garcia-Hanley suggested that they vote to table it. Mark Rothenberg motioned to table the request. Danny Young seconded.

Motion to table the vote for the letter of support for cARTEl passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

6.3 Arts District Development LLC requested a letter of support for a Type 47 liquor license. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned to approve the UDLUC recommendation for the HCNC to write a letter of support with the condition that the applicant remove the dance floor and comply with the HCNC standard conditions for alcohol sales. Gabrielle Newmark seconded. Brian Kito expressed concerns approving the letter without the condition that they should also not have off-site sales. Brian Kito motioned that they amend the original motion to include that there be no off-site liquor sales. Danny Young seconded the motion.

Motion to provide a letter of support for Arts District Development LLC for a Type 47 liquor license with the condition that they remove the dance floor, have no off-site alcohol sales, and comply with the HCNC standard conditions passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

6.4 Los Angeles County MTA is requesting a letter of support for their DTLA Arts District Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety Project. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned to approve the UDLUC recommendation for the HCNC to write a letter of support for the LA County MTA. George Rollins seconded.

Motion to provide a letter of support for Los Angeles County MTA for their DTLA Arts District Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety Project passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

6.5 Los Angeles County MTA is requesting a letter of support for their Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 3 grant application. This project affects Alameda Street and El Pueblo in front of Union Station. Gabrielle Newmark noted that this will help to enhance pedestrian safety. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned to approve the UDLUC recommendation for the HCNC to write a letter of support for the LA County MTA. Valerie Garcia-Hanley seconded. Alan Kumamoto expressed that some Little Tokyo stakeholders oppose this project because it will increase traffic along Alameda. Board members discussed whether this project would result in a loss of a car lane by establishing a bike lane. Brian Kito suggested that they would need to table the issue until they get more clarity on the project. Yuval Bar-Zemer retracted his motion. Stephen Nagano motioned to table the vote on providing a letter of support to LA County Metro for the ATP grant application. Yvette Grageda seconded.

Motion to table the vote for the letter of support for LA County MTA for their ATP grant application passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

7.0 By-Laws Committee Report

Laura Velkei provided an overview of the Standing Rules draft document, which was distributed online prior to the meeting and in hard copy during the meeting. She explained that the Standing Rules is to help enhance the By-Laws and to create and enforce an honors system among board members. The draft currently proposes ways to incentivize board members to regularly attend meetings and to stay throughout the duration of the meeting so that there is no loss of quorum. The

Standing Rules also only require a simple majority, not a 2/3 vote that are required by the by-laws. Ms. Velkei acknowledged that they will have it translated for everybody and that the current document is a draft that they can add to and change, including rollover issues. Alan Kumamoto ruled that they have this translated and discussed at the next board meeting. Don Toy suggested that they not just send these documents online and that they also mail a hard copy. Brian Kito suggested that they also post this at the library. Valerie Garcia-Hanley motioned to table the discussion and vote to the next board meeting. Don Toy seconded.

Motion to table the discussion and vote of the Standing Rules passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

8.0 Council District 14 Website

Alan Kumamoto explained that the Council District 14 website includes information on the HCNC meetings and an RSVP tab. However, the RSVP tab is causing confusion because people think they are RSVP'ing for HCNC meetings when they are actually RSVP'ing for CD14 meetings. Mr. Kumamoto has spoken to Sarah Hernandez in CD14 who clarified that they have not officially accepted RSVPs on behalf of HCNC and have tried to forward them to HCNC. He explained that this may be an issue if someone wants to be placed on the agenda ahead of time. Yuval Bar-Zemer expressed concerns that this may be misleading the public into thinking they are directly communicating with the HCNC when they are not. Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned that the HCNC send a letter to CD14 requesting that they refrain from communication on behalf of the HCNC unless a link to the HCNC website is established on their website. George Rollins seconded.

Motion to send a letter to Council District 14 requesting that they refrain communication on behalf of HCNC unless a link to the HCNC website is established on the CD14 website passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

9.0 Resignation of Brian Kito & Little Tokyo Caucus Recommendation for Business Owner Representative

Brian Kito announced his official resignation after serving on the HCNC board for 12 years. He will still complete his one pending project to develop a brochure. Mr. Kito then introduced the Little Tokyo caucus' recommendation for the new business owner representative, Matt Glaser who is the owner of Wolf & Crane, a bar in Little Tokyo. Mr. Glaser introduced himself and stated that his business has been in the neighborhood for 3 years. Laura Velkei motioned to approve the Little Tokyo caucus recommendation that Matt Glaser replace Brian Kito as the Little Tokyo Business Owner representative. Valerie Garcia-Hanley seconded.

Motion to approve Matt Maier as the replacement for Brian Kito as the Little Tokyo Business Owner representative passed.

21 Yay. 1 ineligible (Michael Maier)

Brian Kito was no longer allowed on the vote count following his resignation.

10.0 Public Comments

Tuong Hoang, a Chinatown resident, shared that he was running for the board in the recent elections and registered at the Chinatown Senior Service Center but never received a PIN number and did not get a chance to vote. Ly Chou Tran and Ne Huang Hom also expressed concerns that many people in Chinatown tried to register but could not vote. Alan Kumamoto acknowledged that he saw 3 challenges to the HCNC elections on public record that DONE and the City Clerk are currently handling. Stephen Nagano and Gabrielle Newmark also explained that they faced problems with their verification and voting. Alan Kumamoto noted that these issues may reflect that

something is wrong with the voting system and process itself. Edmund Soohoo and Don Toy expressed concerns that Chinatown had over 300 people who tried to register and were denied the night before the election. Mr. Soohoo explained that they were seniors who do not normally use email so they signed up under one shared email. Brett Shears responded that the rejection was due to their system not anticipating that multiple people would share one email and that they tried to resolve the problem by doing live registration and voting for the people linked to the one email. Mr. Toy explained that this process was confusing for the people who were denied to vote due to language barriers and being asked to disclose personal information. Valerie Garcia-Hanley requested that DONE find better solutions for future elections so that the community does not feel excluded. Mr. Shears said the challenges should be resolved before the next regularly scheduled board meeting when the new officers will be seated.

11.0 President Alan Kumamoto adjourned the meeting at 8:25 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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