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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD
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APPROVED

Special Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2016 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
244 S San Pedro St., Los Angeles CA 90012

1.0 Call to Order

At 6:35 P.M., President Alan Kumamoto called the meeting to order and started with public comment and presentations because quorum was not yet established. Quorum was established at 7:05 PM. Board Members signed in the Attendance Sheet.

Present (19): Alan Kumamoto, Laura Velkei, June Aochi-Berk, Alexandra Leekley, George Rollins, Michael Maier, John Jason, Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Angelica Lopez Moyes, Al Soo-Hoo, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Stephen Nagano, Matther Glaser, Danny Young, Don Toy, Marc Rose, Greg Kimura

Absent (13): Shirley Zhang, Lydia Moreno, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Mark Rothenberg, Gabriel Flores, Tuong Hoang, Wai So Yuan, Norman Nie, Howard Nishimura, Ron Fong, Yvette Grageda, Esther Woo, Dafne Gokcen

Public/Guests: Lynn Nakamura, Josef Bray-Ali, Tom Kim, Michele Arce, Edmund Soohoo

2.0 Public Comments

2.1 Lynn Nakamura from St. Xavier Chapel raised concerns about how the church and other nearby businesses in Little Tokyo were never notified about the street closures for the Farmer’s Market, which may impact the church services. Ms. Nakamura has tried to reach out to City Council and the Farmer’s Market staff but has not received a consistent response about her concerns. Laura Velkei and Alan Kumamoto suggested that they can discuss this at the HCNC Urban Design & Land Use Committee and for Ms. Nakamura to continue to keep in touch with the Farmer’s Market staff about their concerns.

2.2. Ly Chou Tran, translated by Don Toy, asked why there was no Chinese translator present at the meeting. Alan Kumamoto responded that they did not receive a request and in the past former board member Edmund Soohoo fulfilled these requests. He encouraged another representative to contact him or Treasurer Lydia Moreno to fulfill the request. President Kumamoto explained that they need to know the names of the individuals who need translations, the language, and they must file the request the Thursday before the board meeting.

2.3 Ne Huang Hom, translated by Don Toy, announced that Wai So Yuan, Tuong Hoang, and Esther Woo were sick and could not attend the meeting tonight.

2.4 Josef Bray-Ali announced that he is a candidate for City Council District 1. He owns the Flying Pigeon bike shop in Cypress Park and lives in Lincoln Heights. His website is www.joe4cd1.com.

3.0 Metro Presentation: Union Station Linkage Project

Tom Kim, the engineer for the project, presented the scope and timeline of the project which is creating a bidirectional connection to Union Station. The project will raise the railyard and expand the current passenger concourse. In addition, they are surveying historic-cultural sites in the surrounding area for eligibility for historical preservation. Mr. Kim shared that they will release the EIR in Winter 2017 and that construction will start in 2019 with a planned completion date of 2024. Laura Velkei asked when they will have designs available. Mr. Kim responded that they should have images available by summer of next year. Alan Kumamoto requested that Metro come back to update the board in 6 or 8 months. Mr. Kim indicated that he would actually like to come even earlier to get input on the process. Stephen Nagano asked how this project fits in with the Union Station Master Plan. Mr. Kim explained that this a project level initiative that is within the broader master plan for Union Station.

4.0 Approval of Previous Board Minutes (7:05 PM)

Board members reviewed the May 2016 and June 2016 board meeting minutes.

Laura Velkei motioned to approve the May 2016 and June 2016 board meeting minutes. Steve Nagano seconded. 15 Yay, 3 Nay (Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Don Toy), 1 Ineligible (Al Soo-Hoo) Motion approved.

Following the vote, Alan Kumamoto explained that for future meetings, the meeting minutes will be in Consent Calendar, which was approved as a part of the Standing Rules document. Don Toy raised concerns about ensuring that the document be received in advance and translated for non-English speaking members of the board. President Kumamoto acknowledged the concern and that they will work on a process.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

Alan Kumamoto provided a summary of the June 2016 expenses. All the expenses listed under 4.1 on the agenda are included in the June 2016 expense report. The items listed under 4.2 are still pending and not included.

Stephen Nagano motioned to approve the June 2016 Treasurer's Report. Laura Velkei seconded. 15 Yay, 3 Abstentions (Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Don Toy), 1 ineligible (Al Soo-Hoo) Motion approved.

6.0 Executive Committee

6.1 Neighborhood Council Budget Package

Alan Kumamoto distributed the Neighborhood Council Budget Package which included a strategic plan, an outreach survey, FY2016-2017 budget, and council self-assessment form for board members for discussion and vote.

President Kumamoto started off the discussion by clarifying that they can approve the budget and modify it in the future. Valarie Garcia-Hanley pointed out a mistake in which the Neighborhood Purpose Grants and Neighborhood Improvement Grants budget lines were switched. President Kumamoto acknowledged the mistake and will make the corrections for the final version. Translating for Ly Chou Tran, Don Toy expressed concerns about the lack of translated materials and that even if materials were translated, the documents should be sent in advance so that they have time to digest the information. President Kumamoto acknowledged these issues and offered that the board could table the vote to the August meeting if necessary. Mr. Toy, translating for Ms. Tran, said that she did not want to hold the process back. Angelica Lopez Moyes expressed concerns about the evaluation measures and scores not aligning with the Strategic Plan and suggested they be revised. She asked if they could make changes even after approving the documents. Laura Velkei and President Kumamoto clarified that they can make changes. Michael Maier and Ms. Moyes volunteered to work on further developing the Strategic Plan and evaluation measures this coming year. Noting that the upcoming budget is \$5000 less than last year's, Stephen Nagano asked for clarification on the budget trends. Mr. Toy responded that they original had \$60,000 when HCNC first established, then the budget was \$50,000 for several years, and then \$37,000. Last year, the budget was \$41,000 for elections.

George Rollins motioned to approve the Neighborhood Council Budget Package. Stephen Nagano Seconded.

***16 Yay, 2 Abstentions (Michael Maier, Angelica Lopez Moyes), 1 ineligible (Al Soo-Hoo)
Motion approved.***

6.2 Executive Officer Goals

At the last Executive Committee meeting, the officers were asked to set personal goals to help implement the Strategic Plan. 1st Vice President Dafne Gokcen said she would work with Treasurer Lydia Moreno on all paperwork to ensure a smooth transition to DONE to approve projects. 2nd Vice President Stephen Nagano will help with bringing in speakers on a relevant topic or issue for meetings. 3rd Vice President Laura Velkei will be focusing more on outreach and encouraging more board involvement on projects based on people's interests and skillsets. 4th Vice President Yuval Bar-Zemer will help with hospitality at the meetings.

7.0 Urban Design and Land Use Committee

Alan Kumamoto announced that committee chairs need to be an Executive Committee officer. Currently, the Urban Design and Land Use Committee is chaired by Mark Rothenberg who is no longer part of the Executive Committee. 3rd Vice President, Laura Velkei volunteered to chair the committee.

8.0 By-Laws Committee

Alan Kumamoto announced that they are now able to make changes to the by-laws and the By-Laws Committee can meet to suggest possible changes.

9.0 Historic Preservation of Metropolitan Water District Building (1111 Sunset)

Alexandra Leekley announced that the Metropolitan Water District building on 1111 Sunset is set to be demolished on July 28th. She asked the board to support the historical significance of the building by writing four letters to the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Planning Department, Council Member Cedillo's office, and Office of Historic Resources. She also encouraged people to attend the Cultural Heritage Commission Meeting on July 21st to testify in support of the historical significance of the building. Laura Velkei further clarified that if the Commission decides to look at the historical significance of the building, then it will be pulled out of demolition.

Don Toy asked for further clarification of what makes the building significant. Laura Velkei and Marc Rose clarified that the building was designed by a famous architect and urban planner, Walter Perreira. Mr. Rose further clarified that the conversation they are having at this point is just to preserve the building and not about its potential use which will be a later discussion. He also only received the notice about the possible demolition 3 weeks ago even though the building was purchased over 6 months ago. Stephen Nagano cautioned that based on past experience that some buildings on historical registries actually do not physically exist and that this process can take a long time. He asked who was taking the lead on this project. Ms. Velkei said that Yuval Bar-Zemer was going to take the lead but he is out of the country so she will take the lead.

Matthew Glaser motioned for the HCNC to write letters to the Cultural Heritage Commission, the City Planning Department, Councilmember Gil Cedillo's Office, and Lamber Geicinger in the Office of Historic Resources in support of historic preservation of 1111 Sunset. Marc Rose seconded.

18 Yay. 1 Ineligible (Al Soo-Hoo).

Motion approved.

10.0 Additional Comments & Announcements

10.1 As there are no urgent action items to vote on, the HCNC board will go dark in August and meet in September. Alan Kumamoto encouraged each caucus to meet individually in August instead to figure out future projects and issues to tackle for the year.

10.2 There will be an HCNC booth at the Chinatown Summer Nights event on July 16. Laura Velkei, Alexandra Leekley, and Angelica Lopez Moyes will be helping at the booth.

10.3 Alan Kumamoto reminded members from each caucus to have a representative for the Action, By-Laws, and Urban Design/Land Use committees.

10.4 John Jason announced that there is an event at Artshare LA on July 16 from 2-4 PM featuring Robert Vargas.

11.0 President Alan Kumamoto adjourned the meeting at 8:15 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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