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H C N C
Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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APPROVED

Special Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2016 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Casa Italiana (St Peter Italian Catholic Church)
1039 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012

1.0 Call to Order

At 6:40 P.M., President Alan Kumamoto called the meeting. 23 members were present and quorum was established. Board Members signed in the Attendance Sheet.

Present (26): Alan Kumamoto, Shirley Zhang, Lydia Moreno, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Laura Velkei, Gabriel Owens-Flores, Alexandra Leekley, George Rollins (arrived 6:50 PM), Michael Maier, Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, Angelica Lopez Moyes, Tuong Hoang, Wai So Yuan, Al Soo-Hoo (arrived after 7 PM), Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Stephen Nagano, Matthew Glaser, Ron Fong, Yvette Grageda, Danny Young, Don Toy, Marc Rose, Greg Kimura (arrived after 7 PM), George Campos (newly appointed)

Absent (5): June Aochi-Berk, John Jason, Norman Nie, Esther Woo, Dafne Gokcen

Public/Guests: Edmund Soohoo, Stephanie Uy, Ari Simon, Brian Falls, Brennan Lindner, Luis Rincon, Greg Fischer, Anna Aguilera, Adam Bialow, Bill Delvac

2.0 Consent Agenda

Alan Kumamoto asked for a motion to approve the items listed in the Consent Agenda, which included the July 2016 Board Meeting Minutes and July & August 2016 Treasurer’s Reports. This is the first time the Board is trying the Consent Agenda and the materials were sent through email for people to review in advance. Any items that need further review can be taken out for separate discussion and approval. Don Toy raised concerns that the members who do not have online access could not review copies in advance.

Laura Velkei motioned to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. Alexandra Leekley seconded. 17 Yea, 0 Nay, 6 Abstentions (Yuval Bar-Zemer, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Tuong Hoang, Wai So Yuan, Ne Huang Hom)

Motion Approved

3.0 Public Comments & Government Reports

1. Johanna Glovinsky from Endless Orchard announced that they are doing an art installation involving the neighborhoods around the LA State Historic Park and they want to gather stories from community members about. fruit, place, and history to incorporate into the

- Orange Grove entrance. She and her colleague will approach people after the meeting to see if they can participate. They also encourage people to email them stories and quotes.
2. Luis Rincon, the Community Engagement Coordinator for LA State Historic Park, announced a new training for community health workers and passed out flyers.
 3. Ari Simon introduced himself as the New Downtown Area Director for Councilman Huizar. He will be providing updates on the DTLA forward campaign and is interested in new ways of approaching public space. He can be contacted at ari.simon@lacity.org.
 4. Stephanie Uy, field representative for Assemblyman Gomez, has been working closely with the Chinatown Business Improvement District to provide an ADA compliance workshop at the BID offices Wednesday 9/14 2 PM. There will also be a community coffee event at Echo Park Saturday 9/17 at 2 PM.
 5. Brian Falls came to speak in regards to the proposed Community Impact Statement for the Metropolitan Water District building which was recently nominated for historical preservation but was not declared historically prominent by the Office of Historic Resources. He asked the HCNC to support the Office of Historic Resources decision and not take any action on the Community Impact Statement.
 6. Brennan Lindner announced that there will be a 5K Fun Run on Olvera Street on 10/29. There will be street closures but they will be open by 10 AM.

4.0 Little Tokyo Caucus Resident Seat Board Recommendation

Ron Fong explained that Little Tokyo has had a vacancy for the resident seat since Howard Nishimura moved away. They received an application from George Campos, a resident who is very active in the Little Tokyo Community Council and familiar with the institutions and people working in the area. George Campos introduced himself from the audience.

Ron Fong motioned to approve the Little Tokyo Caucus recommendation to approve their selection of George Campos the HCNC Board. George Rollins seconded.

23 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention

Motion unanimously Approved

5.0 Little Tokyo Clean Streets Challenge

Stephen Nagano announced that the city has budgeted \$25,000 for a clean street challenge across the city. The proposal requires that either the neighborhood council can take the lead and initiate a clean-up or a non-profit can take the lead and partner with the neighborhood council. He, Brian Kito, and others in Little Tokyo want to propose to have a Little Tokyo Sparkle Day on 9/26 and 11/17. The funds would not be dispersed until December if they are approved. Stephen Nagano motioned to have the HCNC partner with the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association in putting forth the proposal for the Clean Street Challenge. Ron Fong seconded.

Alan Kumamoto opened the floor for discussion. Ron Fong recommended that the motion also include funding from HCNC that could come out of the Little Tokyo caucus funds. Stephen Nagano amended the original motion to include that HCNC partner with the Little Tokyo Public Safety Organization with a commitment of \$500 in putting forth the proposal for the Clean Street Challenge. After some discussion about receiving HCNC funds, it was decided that Little Tokyo would like the \$500 be used for this event regardless if the proposal is funded. Don Toy asked for clarification about HCNC's role and responsibilities and if the HCNC would be a name-only partner.

Mr. Fong clarified that the HCNC will be considered a financial partner because they are allocating money from the funds reserved for the Little Tokyo Caucus to this event. Mr. Nagano explained that the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association will bring back plans and updates to the HCNC for information purposes and not for approval purposes. Yuval Bar-Zemer asked if it was appropriate that Mr. Nagano make the motion and should be recused from voting. Mr. Fong clarified that Mr. Nagano is not a representative of the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association so there is no conflict of interest. Valerie Garcia-Hanley asked to confirm that it was also a 501(c)3 which Mr. Nagano and Mr. Fong both confirmed.

Stephen Nagano motioned to have the HCNC partner with the Little Tokyo Public Safety Organization in putting forth the proposal for the Clean Street Challenge with a commitment of \$500 for the event regardless if the proposal is funded. Ron Fong seconded.

18 Yea, 0 Nay, 5 Abstentions (Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Tuong Hoang, Wai So Yuan, Ne Huang Hom), 1 ineligible (George Campos)

Motion Approved

6.0 Urban Design and Land Use Committee

6.1. Standing Rules

Laura Velkei tabled the discussion of changes to the Standing Rules for the next month. The changes will include procedural issues regarding the Urban Design & Land Use Committee.

6.2 August 2016 Meeting Recommendations for Discussion & Vote

6.2.1 The UD/LUC unanimously approved their application.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a letter of support for Phoodz. Shirley Zhang seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)

Motion Approved

6.2.2 The UD/LUC unanimously approved Spitz's application with standard conditions. They have also been approved by the Little Tokyo Community Council.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a letter of support for Spitz. Ron Fong seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)

Motion Approved

6.2.3 The UD/LUC unanimously approved a letter of support for Far East Café's liquor license application. They have also been approved by the Little Tokyo Community Council.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a letter of support for Spitz. Matthew Glaser seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)

Motion Approved

6.2.4 The UD/LUC unanimously approved a letter of support for Little Jewel's application for a beer & wine license which will not allow any off-site single item sales. Don Toy asked for a summary of the Standard Conditions. Laura Velkei said she will send them to him. Mr. Toy asked if they can sell single bottles of wine. Ms. Velkei clarified that they can sell big single items, not small single items. Shirley Zhang asked if they approved the patio portion. Ms. Velkei responded that the operators did not ask for it since they do not actually have one.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a letter of support for Little Jewel. Danny Young seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)
Motion Approved

6.3 Community Impact Statements

6.3.1 Laura Velkei reported that the LADOT DASH presented at the UD/LUC last meeting and those present expressed that the DASH should go around to all the neighborhoods so they are connected as a community, especially in the interim as Metro produces more lines through the area. Ron Fong noted that their proposal to move services off of 3rd street to 2nd Street also removes access to seniors and Little Tokyo Tower. Ms. Velkei said to send her any additional comments to add to the statement. Shirley Zhang asked if there was a council file associated with the plan. Ms. Velkei said that there is one but DONE does not require a council file.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a Community Impact Statement to be sent to LADOT regarding the proposed DASH stops and routes. Yuval Bar-Zemer seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)
Motion Approved

6.3.2 Laura Velkei reported that for several years Camden has attempted a mixed-use project in the Arts District. They came back to present at the last UD/LUC meeting to provide an update. They were asked to make changes, but they refused. The UD/LUC voted unanimously to not approve the project and recommend to send a Letter of Opposition and Community Impact Statement. Stephen Nagano requested more background on the project. Ms. Velkei explained that despite working with them for awhile to make adjustments, they continue to not adhere to the Arts District community plan, including type of construction and FAR. Lydia Moreno asked if it's the Arts District caucus that is opposing the project. Ms. Velkei responded that it is the UD/LUC.

Laura Velkei motioned for the HCNC to send a Community Impact Statement and Letter of opposition. Alexandra Leekley seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)
Motion Approved

6.3.3 Laura Velkei said that as a follow-up to the decision made in the HCNC July Board Meeting to support the 1111 Sunset historical preservation, she is proposing to file a community impact statement. Shirley Zhang announced that there are public comments on the issue. Alan Kumamoto opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

1. Anna Aguilera, resident of Victor Heights for 14 years, said that she is against the preservation. She said the location has been vacant and a site of vandalism, graffiti, and trash and is supportive of new development in the area. Ms. Aguilera asked that the council not to preserve the property and to allow project move forward.
2. Adam Bialow, resident of Victor Heights for 15 years, cited that the current property feels like passing by prison walls in its current condition. He said that the application for preservation only came from owner of the neighboring Elysian who has an economic interest in his own property after finding out the proposed development will be blocking his property and is not interested in preservation. Mr. Bialow wants the area to be a gateway to downtown and supports a new development that will increase foot traffic to

- create safety.
3. Brian Fells said that he already provided his public comment earlier and reiterated that the HCNC not move forward with the Community Impact Statement.
 4. Bill Delvac stated that Yuval Bar-Zemer has an immediate interest as the neighboring property owner and asked him to recuse himself from the room. Mr. Bar-Zemer left the room. Mr. Delvac then stated that the building was nominated for preservation, but the Office of Historic Resources evaluated the application and the building does not qualify. He said that there are rules and a process for the evaluation and the HCNC should not have discretionary approval at this point, so they should take no further action on this item.
 5. Edmund Soohoo, former HCNC board member and former resident of Victor Heights, says that he has walked the property and appreciates what the Elysian has come to be and for activating the community. He further stated that the scale of the development is very critical for a lot of people that live in that area and anything that is going higher than what it is now will be blocking their views, which tells them they don't count. Mr. Soohoo said that he is not against development but it needs to be in harmony with the community.
 6. Don Toy asked if there will be any meetings with the community about this issue. Brian Fells responded that they will have meetings and are currently figuring out the process.

Board Response and Discussion:

Laura Velkei said that as the champion of this project, she feels offended by some of the public comments because she supported the preservation out of appreciation for the architect. George Rollins said that he often drives by the building and it has always stood out as special to him. He feels that the building is special and should not be torn down for another apartment complex that you could find in another neighborhood. Shirley Zhang said that she was not at the July meeting for the original discussion but was a part of the tour that Yuval Bar-Zemer arranged. After talking to Victor Heights residents, she found that many of them also do not see the historic or artistic value of the building and are supportive of new development at the site. She further stated that because both residents and professionals at the Office of Historic Resources do not see the historic value of the building, she urged the board to reconsider the July decision. Don Toy commented that if there are opportunities to revisit the issue, they should keep the motion. Matthew Glaser asked for clarification about the architecture that was stripped away and if adaptive reuse could they bring back the features. Ms. Velkei responded that the biggest complaint was that the water feature was removed but it can be brought back. She also received over 600 signatures in a week and a half to support the preservation. Brian Fells responded that all the historic features were removed and that the only thing left is the structure. Adam Bialow asked Ms. Velkei to clarify where she got those 600 signatures and she responded that they were from individuals across from the city. Mr. Bialow raised concerns if they represented the local community. Angelica Moyes commented that the Greater Echo Park Neighborhood Council just unanimously supported preservation of the project. Ms. Zhang reiterated the public comments from the Victor Heights residents that the current property is walled off and attracts graffiti and that their concerns should be factored into the decision. Marc Rose said that they are not saying that they cannot develop on the property but that development needs to be done using the integrity of the existing architecture. Gabriel Owens-Flores asked if it does not receive a designation, does it mean the building must be demolished

and if adaptive reuse can be used instead. Ms. Velkei clarified that the developer applied for a demolition application so Yuval Bar-Zemer applied for historic designation to stop the demolition. Yvette Grageda expressed that she feels uncomfortable voting about this issue today because many of the people don't know enough about the historic value of the site to make a decision. She recognizes that this is very crucial for each side and asked to table the vote. Ms. Velkei said that if this is not voted on tonight, then she is almost certain the building will be demolished. Alan Kumamoto asked for a vote to end the discussion. All board members approved to end the discussion.

Laura motioned for the HCNC to send a Community Impact Statement opposing the demolition of the Pereira Building on 1111 Sunset. Norma Garcia seconded.

18 Yea, 2 Nay (Shirley Zhang, Danny Young), 3 Abstentions (Ron Fong, Gabriel Owens-Flores, Valerie Garcia-Hanley), 1 Recused (Yuval Bar-Zemer), 2 Ineligible (Al Soo-Hoo, George Campos)

6.3.4 Lydia Moreno announced that they are meeting with Councilmember Cedillo's office tomorrow to discuss the ongoing Dodger's game issue. She explained that they created a traffic mitigation plan with former Councilmember Ed Reyes and the plan has not been put back in place since Councilmember Gil Cedillo took office. This issue is also tied to the remodeling at Cathedral High School, which redirected the traffic to Solano. Ms. Moreno would like the board to support the Solano Canyon community in trying to get the original traffic mitigation plan that was put in place by the previous council office that was taken away and a community impact statement to supplement the plan that addresses the Cathedral High School remodeling. Stephen Nagano asked for clarification about the plan. Ms. Moreno explained that there are currently three entrances to Dodgers Stadium: 110 South, 110 North, and Broadway. Broadway is an alternate route that creates traffic on community roads. The traffic mitigation plan closes the Broadway entrance. Al Soo-hoo asked how long the mitigation plan was in place. Ms. Moreno responded that it was in place for 2 years. Shirley Zhang asked if the Community Impact Statement has to be tied to Cathedral High School. Ms. Moreno responded that it has to include Cathedral High School since they were the ones who originally asked to open Broadway.

Lydia Moreno motioned for the HCNC to support reinstating the traffic mitigation plan put in place by former Councilmember Ed Reyes and to file a Community Impact Statement. Laura Velkei seconded.

24 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions, 2 ineligible (George Campos, Al Soo-hoo)

Motion Approved

7.0 Solano Canyon Caucus – Dodgers Stadium 2016 Season

Lydia Moreno provided a quick update that the LADOT has been dismissive about their complaints about the noise and traffic issues with the latest concerts, which they have not been always properly notified about. They have asked for assistance from LADOT, but they have not always responded. Alan Kumamoto asked to table this discussion to the next meeting.

8.0 Greg Fischer gave a presentation on historic cemeteries in the different HCNC neighborhoods.

9.0 Additional Comments & Announcements

8.1 Alexandra Leekley designed several new logos for HCNC. She distributed a handout and asked the Board to choose the top 3 designs.

8.2 Jasmine Elbarbary from DONE announced that monthly profiles will be sent out the first of the month. They will be receiving a summary of the cases that the department has been working on for the neighborhood councils. If there are any questions you may e-mail her. She also announced that the Congress of Neighborhoods is taking place on Saturday 9/24 and that you can register online.

8.3 Lydia Moreno asked Jasmine Elbarbary to provide an update on the transfer of the Funding Department. She responded that the Funding Department has been transferred to the LA City Clerk which happened this past week. Mario Hernandez is still the funding representative.

10.0 President Alan Kumamoto adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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 hcnccla@gmail.com or by calling 323/849-0012

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