

OFFICERS

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Dafne Gokcen, 1st Vice President
Matthew Glaser, 2nd Vice President
Laura Velkei, 3rd Vice President
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Lydia Moreno, Treasurer
Phyllis Ling, Secretary



Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



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

President: hcncla@gmail.com
Secretary: hcncla@gmail.com
tel: 323.849.0012
fax: 213.613.0282

JANUARY REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Francis Xavier Church
222 S Hewitt Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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) in advance of the meeting you wish to attend by contacting hcncla@gmail.com or by calling (323) 849-0012. All items on the agenda are subject to possible discussion, action, and CIS.

1 — Call to Order & Roll Call (6:40 pm)

Acting Chair Dafne Gokcen called meeting to order at 6:40PM. V.P. Dafne Gokcen discussed the rules of public comment and the order that items will be discussed. Dafne Gokcen stated that due to the size of group, public comments would be limited to one minute. Dafne Gokcen also read the city of Los Angeles removal warning notice. 26 board members were present

Present (26): June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang.

Late Arrivals (2): Al Soo-Hoo (6:45pm), Greg Kimura (6:56pm).

Absent (3): Alan Kumamoto, Norman Qie Nie, and Wai So Yuan.

Guests: Mary Kim, Empower LA; Megan Teramoto, CD14; Miguel Vargas, LARABA; Daren Shepard, Trojan Crossfit; Cristina Villalobos, New Economics for Women; Vince Leus, Victor Heights/HCNNC; Jackie Kim, Assembly member Miguel Santiago; Eugene Moy, Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Andy Vought, LA River State Park Partners; King Cheung; and Maria Ochoa.

2 — Public Comment & Government Agency Reports (Sign-Up Sheet – 2-Minute Limit) (6:46 p.m.)

Cristina Villalobos, New Economics for Women, non-profit – Announced 5K run/walk and stroller roll event called “Moms helping Moms” on May 19th at LA State Historic Park.

Darren Shepard, Trojan Cross-fit – Announced that they are offering a free self-defense course on last Saturday of the month for men or women.

Miguel Vargas, LARABA – Asked community to look for a missing woman (6’2”, blond, in her 40s, mental health issues).

2.1 CD 1 Updates

2.2 CD 14 Updates/announcements – Megan

Night on Broadway on January 27th. Invited Little Tokyo and Arts District to direct concerns about the new RecycLA program to Council Office.

2.3 Other public official updates/announcements

2.4 DONE Updates – Mary Kim

Dafne Gokcen announced that there was a request to move item 7.1 to the first item after public comments because the speaker on the proposal has to leave early. Item was taken up by unanimous consent.

7 — New Business (Discussion and Vote) (6:52 p.m.)

7.1 Safe Access to LASHP: (Discussion and Vote)

Request for Letter of Support for the installation of a stoplight at the intersection of Ann Street and North Spring Street to improve visitor access to LA State Historic Park. Current park does not have safe pedestrian access.

Andy Vought from LA River State Park Partners described the challenges accessing LASHP. An Ann Street stoplight would provide proximity to Ann Street School and William Mead Homes. His group is working closely with Council Member Gil Cedillo for this request. This would be the first of several proposals to improve visitor access.

Motion: to provide Letter of Support for Safe Access to LASHP (Laura Velkei motioned, Danny M. Young seconded.)

Vote on motion: 26-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: None

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

3 — Consent Calendar (Discussion and Vote) (6:54 p.m.)

Items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and can be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member or the general public so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

3.1 Approval of November 14, 2017 Minutes of Board Meeting - (Discussion and Vote)

3.2 Approval of October, November, and December Monthly Expense Report (MER) - (Discussion and Vote)

Motion: to approve consent calendar (3.1-3.2). (Laura Velkei motioned, Marc Rose seconded.)

Vote on motion: 22-Yes, 4-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Ne Huang Hom, and Tuong Hoang,

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

4 — President’s Report – Alan Kumamoto (Discussion and Action) (6:56 p.m.)

4.1 Alan is absent, 1st VP Dafne Gokcen is chairing the meeting.

5 — Committee Reports (6:56 p.m.)

5.1 Treasurer: Lydia Moreno

Board Approval to pay (Discussion and Vote)

5.1.1 \$1,129.25 Languages for you Translation Agency - Translation services (written form) for 10/10/17 Board Minutes and 11/14/17 Board Agenda

5.1.2 \$250.00 Languages for you Translation Agency - Interpreter for 11/14/17 board meeting

It was asked why the cost of 5.1.1 was so high. Lydia Moreno advised that written translations are charged per word, and the interpreter costs \$250 per meeting. Lydia Moreno commented that translation fund will have \$800 shortfall after paying invoices. The Board allocated \$1000 for translations in the budget for the fiscal year, and the Chinatown caucus previously transferred \$2000 from its community project funds to the General Operational funds for translations. Lydia Moreno suggested that the board motion to pay these two items and then make a separate motion to decide where to pull the funds from the budget.

Motion: to approve 5.1.1 Expenses. (Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang motioned, George Campos seconded.)

Vote on motion: 27-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Greg Kimura, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: None

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

Motion: to approve 5.1.2 Expenses. (Lynn Nakamura motioned, Alexandra Leekley seconded.)

Vote on motion: 27-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, Greg Kimura, and Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: None

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

\$2500 remaining in Chinatown NPG funds. According to demographics, other communities also have a high percentage of Chinese speakers. There was question as to whether the board should pay to translate for specific board members. However, minutes and agenda are also for community members.

There was an EmpowerLA email about 1 year ago that indicated that DONE would begin paying for all translations, which was confirmed by Jay Handal at the time. However, it was unclear whether this policy was ever officially announced or if it was rescinded. It was suggested that the board try to submit both current and past invoices for translation to DONE, and if any funds are reimbursed, that those funds be reallocated to the community funds from which they were originally drawn.

DONE representative Mary Kim was asked how most NCs handle translation expenses, and she explained that most boards pay for translations out of their General Operational funds.

There were further Board comments that the translation expenses should be assumed by the entire neighborhood council because translations are considered an administrative cost. A suggestion was made that the board only vote on the \$800 shortfall at this time.

Motion: To transfer a total of approximately \$800 (or the amount needed to complete payment of 5.1.1 and 5.1.2) from NPG funds to General Operational Expenditures to pay for translations, with the funds drawn in equal parts from the 6 communities' NPG funds. (Yuval Bar-Zemer motioned, Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang seconded.)

Vote on motion: 27-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Greg Kimura, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang

No: None

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

Motion: To submit translation invoices to DONE for reimbursement, and to reallocate any reimbursed funds to the communities' funds from which they were originally drawn. (Don Toy motioned, Laura Velkei seconded.)

Vote on motion: 27-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Greg Kimura, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, Ly Chou Tran, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang

No: None

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

5.2 **First VP: Chair of Action Committee Report - Dafne Gokcen** **Action Committee Meeting (11/07/17) Projects (Discussion and Vote)**

5.2.1 Action Committee did not meet in December.

Lantern Festival in El Pueblo to be put on next Agenda.

5.3 **Second VP: Chair of Programs – Matthew Glaser (Discussion and Vote)**

5.3.1 2017-18 HCNC Program Ideas Update

The marijuana policy program to discuss the new cannabis law is scheduled for the February board meeting. There will be a speaker from the city and a speaker from the industry.

**5.4 Third VP: Chair of Stakeholders Committee – Laura Velkei
Urban Design and Land Use Committee – Letters of Support (Discussion and Vote)**

5.4.1 Committee did not meet.

Laura Velkei stated that two projects have come in for land use in the Arts District. Committee offered letters of support to the Hewitt Project and Carmel Project. Laura stated that aside from the Arts District and Little Tokyo, there is little participation from the other districts, which means that much of the projects in those other districts are not getting community input. The committee can support or push back on projects, but cannot reject them.

5.5 Fourth VP: Chair - Early Notifications Committee/ Chair - Hospitality & Refreshments Committee – Yuval Bar-Zemer

5.5.1 Future locations update.

February - Casa Italiana, in Solano Canyon
March –JACCC (tentative), in Little Tokyo
April – Impact Hub, in Arts District

The May meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in the El Pueblo area.

5.6 Recording Secretary: Phyllis Ling (Discussion and Vote)

5.6.1 Announcement of current vacancies on the board: Solano Canyon Business Rep and At Large Youth Rep (16-20 years old)

5.6.2 Review process for filling board vacancies as stated in the bylaws (posting of “Call for Candidates” and candidate application form).

Phyllis Ling made “Call for Candidates” announcements that are available for caucuses to post in their neighborhood posting locations. The locations are the following:

Arts District - The Corner Store, 716 Traction Ave
Chinatown - Chinatown Public Library, 639 N Hill St
El Pueblo - La Luz del Dia, 107 Paseo de la Plaza
Little Tokyo – Koban, 307 E 1st St
Solano Canyon - Solano Elementary School, 615 Solano Ave
Victor Heights - Eastside Market & Italian Deli, 1013 Alpine St

There is a Candidate Application form, which applicants must complete by the deadline, which is 25 days after posting of vacancy, according to the bylaws. The application form is also available in English/Chinese.

Caucus recommends one candidate, but full board is required to vote to seat a member.

5.6.3 Review 2017 Attendance record and procedure for board member removals due to absences (Bylaws and guidance from City Attorney).

City Attorney’s Office was contacted again, and provided the following guidance:

- Maternity policy that the board passed can be used to excuse past absences.

- Notice to members
 - Must come from the President and be in writing.
 - Board should use best judgment as to how to send notice: mail, certified mail, email, etc.
 - Members must be re-noticed when there is a new date scheduled for the vote on the removals.
- No deadline for removal action for absences from last year. “Best Practice” would be within the first quarter of the new calendar year.
- “Whatever, the Board decides, the action should be consistent, i.e. remove all 12, that have 3 or more, or 7 that have the greater number of absences.”
- Votes can be done as a group or individually. Chair of meeting can decide. (As a practical matter, City Attorney recommends voting on removals individually.)
- Voting Rights: Board member retains all rights to participate until no longer a board member.

Don Toy questioned the accuracy of the attendance record because sign-in sheets are just passed around, so if people are not aware of the process, they may not sign-in. Dafne Gokcen clarified that the attendance record is also checked against the minutes and vote counts, and that board members are responsible for reviewing the meeting minutes for accuracy at each meeting.

5.6.4 Potential removal of board members, per September 12, 2017 board meeting resolution “to notify and agenzized for removal the board members with 4 or more absences”.

The following board members were notified of the absences via mail:

Total # of Absences	First	Last	Dates Absent
8	Norman Qie	Nie	1/10, 3/14, 3/28, 5/9, 7/11, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14
7	Wai So	Yuan	3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 7/11, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14
6	Ne Huang	Hom	1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 3/28, 7/11, 9/12
5	June	Aochi-Berk	1/10, 2/14, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11
4	Tuong	Hoang	3/14, 3/28, 7/11, 11/14
4	Greg	Kimura	2/14, 3/28, 4/11, 5/9

Dafne Gokcen provided a brief overview and the guidelines for the discussion:

All members were sent notices by registered mail. Those with email addresses were also emailed. The board does not have to remove all of the members, and the board as a whole can still decide how strict it wants to be in the enforcement of absences. While each board member’s removal will be voted on separately, the board needs to be consistent, per the advice of the City Attorney’s Office. That is, if the board votes to not remove a member with a certain number of absences, it should also vote to not remove another member with a lower number of absences in order to be consistent.

5.6.5 Discussion and vote on each board member with 4 or more absences. Each board member with 4 or more absences will be given 1 minute to make a speech, then the board will have the opportunity to discuss the comments made and vote on whether or not to remove that board member. Each board member will be discussed and voted on separately. If the board chooses to remove a member, the removed member cannot vote on any items further down on the agenda, including the removal of board members listed after them.

5.6.5.1 Norman Qie Nie – 1-minute speech followed by board discussion and vote

Norman Qie Nie was absent. No board or public comments.

Motion: to remove Norman Qie Nie from the board due to absences. (Laura Velkei motioned, Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang seconded.)

Vote on motion: 22-Yes, 5-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Dori Keller, Greg Kimura, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: Don Toy, Ne Huang Hom, Tuong Hoang, and Ly Chou Tran

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

5.6.5.2 Wai So Yuan – 1-minute speech followed by board discussion and vote

Wai So Yuan was absent.

Motion: to remove Wai So Yuan from the board due to absences. (Laura Velkei motioned, Danny M. Young seconded.)

Board discussion – Ne Huang Hom commented (through the interpreter) that Wai So Yuan was sick today and was unable to attend. Don Toy added that his concern was that the process hasn’t been made clear until recently, and that members who had legitimate reasons for being absent, such as being sick, should have been allowed to have their absences excused, and that it is a shame to remove good members who don’t understand the process.

June Aochi-Berk commented that she believed if a member had a valid reason for being absent, including a preplanned trip or illness, and notified the President, that should be considered an excused absence, just like pregnancy. Only when no one is notified, should it be counted as an unexcused absence.

Laura Velkei commented that Wai So Yuan missed 7 of the 11 meetings last year, and also RSVPed “Yes”. It is her perspective that you cannot represent the community that way.

Don Toy stated that he notified Alan every time Wai So Yuan was going to be absent in advance. Laura Velkei stated that Wai So Yuan signed a request for translation sheet for each meeting. Angelica Moyes clarified that she is the one who fills out the interpreter request forms on the members’ behalf when she receives word that one or more members who need translation plan to attend, but this form is submitted far in advance. It also does not contain the member’s signature.

King Cheung, a member of the public, commented that he has been trying to translate for some of the audience members at this meeting, and it has been very difficult to hear what everyone is saying, and some of the topics are complicated, so he could understand if members who don’t speak the language don’t understand what is going on. He said that in the future, the board really needs to provide earphones and translation equipment so that everyone can understand what is being discussed.

According to Phyllis Ling, Alan Kumamoto stated in the January 2016 minutes that there are excused absences with written notification. Laura Velkei stated that there is a standing rule that states that there are no excused absences for any reason.

Vivian Um pointed out that the first three members being voted on have missed more than 50% of last year’s meetings, and we should be voting on that.

Angelica Moyes commented that she believes that board members do need to be present to represent their communities, and supports the board’s previous decision to not excuse absences for any reason per the standing rules, but that since the board is now excusing absences for maternity leave, which is inconsistent with the standing rules, it should also recognize excused absences for medical reasons with

a doctor's note. June Aochi-Berk also stated that she believes that since the board made an exception to excuse absences for maternity leave, it should also vote to make another exception to excuse absences for medical reasons.

Dafne Gokcen clarified that the only current board policy excusing absences was to excuse 3 months for maternity leave, and that although there was lengthy discussion at a previous meeting about other potential excuses for absences, there is currently no policy to excuse absences for any other reasons than maternity leave. However, the board can change the policy if it wants.

Vote on motion: 19-Yes, 8-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: Yuval Bar-Zemer, George Campos, Ron Fong, Norma Garcia, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Danny M. Young, and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang

No: Don Toy, Ne Huang Hom, Tuong Hoang, Greg Kimura, June Aochi-Berk, Angelica Moyes, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, and Ly Chou Tran

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

5.6.5.3 Ne Huang Hom – 1-minute speech followed by board discussion and vote

Ne Huang Hom stated that there shouldn't be as many absences as there are as he came to the meetings most of the time riding with Don Toy and therefore was here when Don Toy was here. The times when he was absent were due to hurting himself and that is why he wasn't able to come. If he wasn't able to make it due to being sick he notified the board and has doctor's excuses. He stated that he had no absences for ten years. The translator stated that Ne Huang Hom is feeling healthy and will be able to come to future meetings.

Motion: to remove Ne Huang Hom from the board due to absences. (Laura Velkei motioned, Vivian Um seconded.)

June Aochi-Berk commented that a board member can still be a great representative even if they miss some meetings, and Ne Huang Hom should be allowed to stay on the board because he shows interest and passion for the community.

Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang asked Mr. Hom why, when he was ill, he did not let the board know. Mr. Hom stated (through the interpreter) that when he couldn't come to the meeting due to illness, he always told the President about it.

George Campos commented that Mr. Hom's presence at this meeting and recent meetings, and the fact that he has spoken up for not only himself but for other members makes a difference in considering whether to remove him.

Steve Nagano asked whether there were any indications from Alan Kumamoto that he received notifications from Mr. Hom about his absences. Dafne Gokcen stated that Alan did not tell her anything about this, and Laura Velkei stated there were no HCNC emails referring to these absences.

Michael Maier asked if Mr. Hom brought the doctors notes. Don Toy responded that Mr. Hom didn't have the doctor's notes today, but could bring them later, and that no one ever asked for them at the last two meetings. Mr. Hom was also asked the number of absences for which he has doctor's notes. Mr. Hom stated "3."

Shirley Zhang asked Mr. Hom how he notified the President about his absences. Through the translator, Mr. Hom stated that he always told Don Toy about it. According to Don Toy, Mr. Hom always told him

about it or Edmund Soo-Hoo, a former board member who also used to drive Mr. Hom to the meetings.

A member of the public (through the interpreter) stated that she was speaking on behalf of herself and others in the audience. She stated that Mr. Hom was ill for a period of time, but is feeling much better now and has a passion to represent his community, and they want the board to give him another chance so he can help his community. Another member of the public commented that Mr. Hom's long tenure on the board should be taken into consideration.

Laura Velkei stated that she appreciated Mr. Hom's passion, but that it is unfair to other board members who have to worry about quorum for some board members to miss so many meetings.

Vote on motion: 11-Yes, 14-No, 2-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION FAILED.

Yes: Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, and Danny M. Young

No: June Aochi-Berk, George Campos, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Ron Fong, Greg Kimura, Tuong Hoang, Ne Huang Hom, Angelica Moyes, Steve Nagano, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Don Toy, and Ly Chou Tran

Abstain: Yuval Bar-Zemer and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

Motion: To not remove the remaining members, June Aochi-Berk, Tuong Hoang, and Greg Kimura because the board has voted to keep Mr. Hom on the board, who had a higher number of absences. (Laura Velkei motioned, Lynn Nakamura seconded.)

Board members expressed the desire to give these members who did not miss 50% of the meetings a second chance. Laura Velkei added that participation on the board is important, and June Aochi-Berk has always stepped up when asked to contribute to do administrative work, and Greg Kimura has offered his service by finding locations.

Greg Kimura commented that he has been on the board for little over a year and he expected to be welcome when he was elected. However, he sees the board as being very self-serving and having hidden agendas. He stated that meetings are hidden away in different locations and sometimes the doors are locked. In his opinion, meetings are very dysfunctional, unprofessional, and often run way over the scheduled time. He asked members to look into their hearts about why they were here, and stated that the board was trying to get rid of "old Asians." He acknowledged that it is hard to have meetings in multiple languages, but that perhaps the board should try having a chairman running the meeting in Chinese with an English interpreter to see how fair that would be.

Michael Maier stated that this vote for him was about missing 4 meetings, and he objects to the insinuation that the vote was about anything else, and finds that insinuation very disrespectful to everyone at the meeting. He hopes that Mr. Kimura will participate in helping to make the board meetings more functional.

Vote on motion: 24-Yes, 2-No, 1-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: Yuval Bar-Zemer, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Dori Keller, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Lydia Moreno, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Laura Velkei, Don Toy, Tuong Hoang, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Norma Garcia, Danny M. Young, June Aochi-Berk, George Campos, Steve Nagano, Ron Fong, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Ly Chou Tran, and Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang

No: Greg Kimura and Michael Maier

Abstain: Angelica Moyes

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

5.6.6 Revision of Standing Rules: Strike out "1. Standing Rules on Board Member Attendance", which reads as

follows:

1. *As per the HCNC bylaws, Board Members must attend a minimum of 9 (nine) meetings per calendar year. Absence of a 4th meeting will result in automatic removal from the board. No vote will be required for removal. Notification of the board will take place at the following board meeting.*”

According to Phyllis Ling, the City Attorney’s Office stated that this was not a valid standing rule because standing rules cannot be stricter than the bylaws.

Motion: to strike out the standing rule on board member attendance. (Phyllis Ling motioned, Valerie Garcia-Hanley seconded.)

Vote on motion: 26-Yes, 1-No, 0-Abstain, 1-Ineligible. MOTION PASSED.

Yes: June Aochi-Berk, George Campos, Yuval Bar-Zemer, Matthew Glaser, Dafne Gokcen, Ne Huang Hom, Dori Keller, Greg Kimura, Alexandra Leekley, Phyllis Ling, Michael Maier, Lydia Moreno, Angelica Moyes, Vivian Um, Irina Valkov, Don Toy, Tuong Hoang, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Norma Garcia, Danny M. Young, Steve Nagano, Ron Fong, Lynn Nakamura, Marc Rose, Ly Chou Tran, Xiayi “Shirley” Zhang

No: Laura Velkei

Ineligible: Al Soo-Hoo

6 — Old Business

Nothing to report

7 — New Business (Discussion and Vote) (continued) (8:17 p.m.)

7.2 Subdivision of HCNC (Discussion and Vote)

Angelica Moyes stated that there have been conversations about subdividing since 2016. DONE made their announcement in November, and around December 6th/7th, a decision was made to move forward with an application. Through meetings, there has been outreach to approximately 450 members of the community. She stated that the priorities of the various communities are very different, and they don’t see the HCNC having the capacity to be more collaborative and inclusive, as in the past when there were fewer residents and not as many planning and land use issues in the Arts District. The proposal is for Solano Canyon, Victor Heights, Chinatown, and El Pueblo subdividing as Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council, leaving Little Tokyo and Arts District in HCNC. The committee has heard concerns and criticisms that they would like to address about Solano Canyon and El Pueblo. After further discussions, the neighborhoods to include in the subdivision could change.

Vince Leus, a resident of Victor Heights, presented data to illustrate the different priorities and the need for a separate council. He stated that the source of the data was the “American Community Survey, so census data.” Data were presented for income, household size, percentage of residents who are renters, educational attainment, and percentage of residents who are foreign-born for Arts District, Little Tokyo, and the proposed subdivision area combined. He stated this illustrates the issues concerning housing for families and meeting accessibility that are specific to the subdivision area.

Board Discussion:

Several board members from Solano Canyon, Victor Heights, and the Arts District voiced concerns about the lack of outreach to board members prior to bringing the proposal to the meeting including Dafne Gokcen, Shirley Zhang, and Danny Young. Laura Velkei stated that she and Lydia Moreno first heard about the proposal from a board member of Echo Park Neighborhood Council (EPNC) after a presentation was made at their board meeting. Lydia Moreno stated that she lives in Solano Canyon, and hadn’t been contacted, but some people in Little Tokyo were notified. Marc Rose stated that he is one of the few business owners in Victor Heights, and he had not been contacted.

Angelica Moyes stated that as she was going down the list contacting board members, she started to hear feedback, and decided that it was better to notify the Executive Committee first to provide time on the agenda so that the proposal could be presented to everyone at the same time.

Laura Velkei stated that this presentation was given to EPNC, and Angelica Moyes has personal connections to two board members, including the Chair. Without talking to HCNC, they got a letter of support from that board.

Angelica Moyes stated that around that time, HCNC had not yet decided to cancel the December meeting, and since EPNC's January meeting would not happen until after the application deadline, their December meeting was the only time they could speak with them. She added that according to DONE, they are supposed to interact with any impacted communities, and HCNC still has a boundary dispute with EPNC. She also stated that she hated that personal information came up, and that she actually did not get in contact with that person.

Several members commented on, or questioned, the accuracy of the data and the way they were presented. Laura Velkei asked to see the source of the data, and stated that in the case of the Arts District, the data are false, as it does not match the 2010 census data. Dori Keller agreed that there is an income disparity, but added that the statistics are off, and that more accurate information can be found by going to City Hall. George Campos wanted to see the hard numbers, and noted that the data do not include stakeholders such as business owners and employees, many of whom have higher income and education than shown in the document. Phyllis Ling stated that the first graphic doesn't look far off from census data. Lydia Moreno asked why they decided to present the statistics for the four caucus areas in the subdivision as a group, rather than break them down.

Vince Leus stated that these data were from a graduate student from UCI who has access to more research resources, and the data are from the 2015 American Community Survey. He stated that the data were presented this way to be better to understand, but offered to provide the data broken down by caucus area.

Several board members had concerns about the use of these data to justify inclusion of communities in the subdivision. Shirley Zhang asked why little Tokyo was not included in the subdivision proposal when it seems to match the subdivision better than the Arts District. Laura Velkei stated that she thinks it is because they asked Little Tokyo and they said "no." Shirley Zhang commented that El Pueblo also does not appear to match as well with the subdivision area. Laura Velkei stated that she was in favor of Chinatown leaving if that is what they wish to do, but not in favor of other communities being gerrymandered.

Vince Leus stated that Chinatown used to be in El Pueblo and the Chinese American museum is there, so they included that historical area.

Both Yuval Bar-Zemer and Ron Fong commented on seeing differences between neighborhoods. Yuval Bar-Zemer stated that he doesn't have a problem with their community finding a platform that works for them, but advised them to be transparent and respectful to the adjoining communities. Ron Fong stated that if they want to start their own neighborhood council, he would open the door for them, but where he would draw the line is if doing so impacts the other neighborhoods that don't really want to be in with them. He would oppose it if the board members from those other communities oppose it.

Board members commented on the participation of Steven Chow, the field representative for Jimmy Gomez. Laura Velkei stated that Steven Chow asked for the letter of support from EPNC, despite the fact that he represents all the districts that are part of this community. She added that his involvement taints the whole process. Dori Keller shared that he used to work for a congresswoman, and that his involvement, getting deep into local politics, is a violation of their ethics codes and grounds for immediate dismissal. He added that a complaint should be made with the congressman's office, which Laura Velkei confirmed she had made -- asking that he be removed from their neighborhood. Don Toy stated that the previous congressman encouraged his staff to be part and parcel of the community as individuals, and that other politicians encouraged participation as long as they made the proper disclosures.

Angelica Moyes stated that Steven Chow was not acting in his capacity as field representative, and that it's in the minutes of that meeting that he made this disclosure. Laura Velkei replied that as a federal staffer, Steven Chow is not allowed to do any of this.

Laura Velkei stated that they made this presentation in Echo Park about development, claiming that the Arts District is so pro-

development and Chinatown is not development, and that the Arts District is the evil source of the problem as to why they are leaving, and that all the communities are going to be built up, which is not true. She added that a board member of EPNC sent the draft minutes to her and Lydia Moreno, and she read the following excerpts:

'The President explained that in Chinatown there are several board members. They have complicated issues. The board wants to apportion neighborhood purpose grants. It's a big equity issue. There are radically different issues at stake. Chinatown has very low income levels. There is really an equity issue.'

'The President states that there would be no boundary changes with the subdivision.'

'This would effectively double the budget. When they first proposed the neighborhood council, Chinatown almost had enough people to form its own neighborhood council.'

'Steven Chow replied that diversity issue is the main reason. There are diverse languages, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, et cetera. Many of the funds allocated go towards translations. That really strains programs.'

Laura Velkei stated that it was despicable what was said about her community, that they have done nothing but set up things for all to participate. She stated that the Chinatown community has not stepped up, so if they want to leave, leave, but it's inappropriate to go after these other communities. She stated that they didn't ask any of these board members or talk to any of these folks, and that she is talking to this board as if they have been doing this for a year, but actually it has been much shorter. She stated that they were making up faulty data for a subdivision and bringing in federal resources to do it, and it is tacky and despicable.

Phyllis Ling asked if the subdivision is a stakeholder process, how much is board approval required? Valerie Garcia-Hanley stated that board approval is not required. Dafne Gokcen clarified that the board can choose to take a position, but doesn't make the decision. It is stakeholders who vote on it, as in the Skid Row subdivision election.

Dori Keller agreed that if Chinatown wants to go, they should go, but was also torn and believed it to be antithetical to the reason for the board, that what was going on is basically divide and conquer, neighborhoods fighting over scraps. He remarked about not having heard a compelling argument for why it is important to subdivide.

Angelica Moyes responded that HCNC has not been working as collaboratively as it could, that the board has been exclusive, and one example of that is how the board dealt with street closures for Dodgers traffic. Discussions began over a year ago and there was a vote this past October or November, which she stated only looked at closing streets around Solano Canyon, and did not address Victor Heights and Chinatown.

Lydia Moreno explained that she and Laura Velkei serve on an Echo Park committee that deals with Dodgers issues, that the letter HCNC requested was simply to support the letter that was written by the council member, and that Chinatown also requested to add two streets. She believed there was a community member at the meeting from Cottage Home and Savoy who wanted to add two more streets and they were added to the letter.

Vince Leus added that he is supporting this effort to create a neighborhood council that splits, so there can be meetings that are accessible to marginalized communities. He added that there are a lot of barriers for seniors in Victor Heights, Solano Canyon, and Chinatown, who don't speak English or drive, to participate and have their feedback heard by developers at meetings that happen in the Arts District.

Michael Maier said that is why we have representative democracy – so that there are people who show up to represent those who can't be there.

Angelica Moyes responded that she's been told "where are your people?" by the LUC chair when she speaks up at Land Use meetings, even when she presents emails and statements from community members, and that community members can make better arguments when they can attend in person.

Board members brought up issues regarding the impact to the southern neighborhoods in terms of numbers and council districts. El Pueblo is in CD14, while Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Victor Heights are in CD1.

Several board members wanted to know if Chinatown was willing to form a subdivision without the other communities.

Angelica Moyes stated that they have been speaking to people in the communities, stakeholders and community leaders, to determine which groups would be included. To answer the question, she would have to go back to the rest of the committee members, and then speak with community groups and community leaders as well.

Marc Rose stated that he shows up at Victor Heights neighborhood watch meetings, and doesn't see other people from Victor Heights that are being represented. He asked if the committee has spoken to any business owners in Victor Heights.

Angelica Moyes stated that they are very intent on reaching each stakeholder type in each of the areas. She stated for example that she has asked Valerie to go to all of the business folks in El Pueblo, and someone else is reaching out to non-profit organizations in El Pueblo.

Don Toy stated that he also was not informed of this proposal before the meeting. He commented on the short timeline, and felt that the process should be allowed to play out, and that board members should not attack these people for bringing up these issues. He stated that in the past when the HCNC used to work more collaboratively, there was never an issue about trying to have materials translated, so when people bring up these issues now and when the board takes certain actions, people perceive that discrimination is happening.

Dafne Gokcen stated that she doesn't want anyone to continually refer to other board members as being discriminatory, that there have been several people who have implied that there is racism on this board, and she just wants it to stop.

Don Toy noted that when the neighborhood council was originally formed, it was with the intention of Chinatown itself starting its own neighborhood council, but that it was due to city restrictions that they had to include additional neighborhoods in the council.

Angelica Moyes was asked to name the people on the committee. She stated that the committee members would be finalized with the application. So far, committee members are Angelica Moyes, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, and Vince Leus. There is someone who has put in work, but is undecided. Steven Chow was supposed to be one of them, but she didn't realize that there was a conflict of interest; he was doing a lot of grunt work, reaching out for them. Angelica Moyes stated that there is no one from Solano Canyon, just people who have been advising them.

Several board members commented on the time that was being wasted on this discussion rather than doing the work of neighborhood councils.

Marc Rose commented that he felt that the point of neighborhood councils was for multiple communities to come together to build a better city. He said that it was saddening and embarrassing, and that he wanted it noted in the minutes, that he may give up his seat because he didn't know if he wanted to be a part of this. However, he didn't want that to stop the committee from doing what they have to do, but he wanted them to hear what he had to say.

Matthew Glaser noted that during his 18 months on the board, there have been two border disputes and three meetings devoted to voting people off this board. Now there has been this subdivision conversation. He stated that every meeting has nothing to do with the communities they represent, dysfunctional, and the biggest waste time. He commented that if people are going to vote on the subdivision, that's fine, but suggested leaving it out of HCNC's internal discussion.

Yuval Bar-Zemer made a statement for the record that anybody who has any ideas about subdivision do their homework, get their petition, file it with the city, and it does not need to be an agenda item because the board members are not the decision makers. Michael Maier and Matthew Glaser voiced support for this statement.

June Aochi-Berk motioned to adjourn the meeting, but also suggested appointing an ad-hoc committee to do fact-finding, and

then come back at another meeting, so as to not take up everybody's time. Yuval Bar-Zemer seconded.

Dafne Gokcen asked if there was any public comment on the subdivision proposal. No public comment.
Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

8 — Announcements

- 8.1 Arts District**
- 8.2 Chinatown**
- 8.3 El Pueblo**
- 8.4 Little Tokyo**
- 8.5 Solano Canyon**
- 8.6 Victor Heights**

9 — Adjournment at 9:13 P.M.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at Koban, 307 E. First S., Los Angeles, CA 90012, or on our website at www.hcncla.org and <http://empowerla.org/hcnc/> and at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact hcnccla@gmail.com.