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Brian Kito, President  
Alan Kumamoto, 1st Vice President  
George Yu, 2nd Vice President  
Mark Rothenberg, 3rd Vice President  
Shirley Zhang 4th Vice President  
Sara Harris, Secretary  
Lydia Moreno, Treasurer

**H C N C**  
**Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council**



HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
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Approved 9/9/2014

**General Board Minutes**

**Pico House/Hellman Quon 125 Paseo de la Plaza, #400 Los Angeles, Ca. 90012**

**June 10, 2014 6pm**

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](mailto:hcnccla@gmail.com) or by calling 323/849-0012

**1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call – Brian Kito 6:18 (27 board members present)**

President Kito moved public Comment (9.0) up the agenda while we wait for Ms. Meshack from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to commence training of the new board.

***PUBLIC COMMENT:***

Kelly Soohoo, Victor Heights stakeholder is concerned about development at the highest peak in all of HCNC area. 1118 White Knoll-which is currently 12 homes. A developer is proposing 14 new homes of considerable height and will change the neighborhood. Kelly Soohoo states "We are against it".

Esther Jo, St. Vincent Medical Center- Provided information about Health benefits resource center which provides for Covered Calif and Cal fresh program. Open enrollment is active and will end in October/November 2014. Any questions contact Esther Jo.

Terry Seto, AXIOM Cantonese Interpreter introduced himself and would like to speak on behalf of the community and stakeholders who speak Chinese. He stated minutes translated by AXIOM are available on the table in traditional Chinese and on the website. Agenda and minutes were provided to board members at the board table. (Note: Toisan and Cantonese translation request was made by board member Edmund Soohoo, interpreter stated and billed for simultaneous translation of tonight's meeting in Mandarin at the request of board members)

Bill Chin, Chinatown- New City Guidelines for small lot subdivision, revised from 2005, (referring to White Knoll development). Request the board read the guidelines for small lot development. Mr. Chin is asked if he knew who the developer of the project is, Mr. Chin directs his attention to board member Mr. Bar-Zemer. Mr. Bar-Zemer states the development company is called Heyday Development.

Steve Rice a Victor Heights resident states the project by Heyday Development should not go forward. 16x18ft, 4 story buildings discriminate against general residents in the area.

**Roll Call of board members:**

Present: Brian Kito, George Yu, Mark Rothenberg, Laura Velkei, George Rollins, Yuval Bar-Zemer, June Berk, Andrew Lucero, Christopher Fudurich, Peter Hick Loon Pang, Ly Chou Tran, Wai So Yuan, Ne Hung Hom, Edmund Soohoo, Norman Qin Nie, Norma Garcia, Richard Estrada, Howard Nishimura, Stephen Nagano, Yvette Grageda, Lydia Moreno, Shirley Zhang, Don Toy, Hoover Tang, Esther Joaquin Woo (left 7:30), Gi Hao Cheung (left 7:40), Sara Harris (left 7:15), Alan Kumamoto (arrived 8:20pm)

Absent: Melissa Richardson-Banks, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Ron Fong, Nick Curl, Alejandra Flores.

Public: Esther Jo, Nat Lowe, Bill Chin, Steve Rice, Minerva Harris Lerner, Kelly Soohoo, Alexis Readinger, Joel Unangst, William ?, Peter Cheong.

AXIOM Translation: Toisan Interpreter Jerry Seto, Cantonese interpreter Sheila Chau (asked to translate in Mandarin)

**2.0 Approval of Previous Board Minutes** (discussion and vote)

Minutes from 5.13.2014 need corrections to the vote count for 4<sup>th</sup> VP, Shirley Zhang, grammatical edits and roll call edits.

Edmund Soohoo- states "my comments regarding bylaws changes is not included in minutes" (comment sent via email after meeting- regarding need for discussion or notification of changes at prior meeting) President Kito notes that agenda identified the changes to the by-laws as a 5 day notice, DONE can take action.

George Yu make a motion to approve minutes with corrections, Christopher Fudarich seconds, Don Toy states not enough time was given to read the minutes given that we all received minutes the morning of the meeting. New board member Yvette states that we had 50 minutes so far to read the minutes equally and we should move forward with the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Votes tallied:

**Vote Count:** 16 in favor, 9 against, 2 abstain – (See addendum "Vote Count")

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS PASSES**

Fr. Richard Estrada requests we have better way to include seniors so as to expedite the process and meetings.

Laura Velkei volunteers to mail agenda and minutes to Chinese speaking board members provided she is given their information. Board Member contact information was request at last meeting, "n/a" was provided as the home address and telephone numbers or areas were left blank by most of the Chinatown caucus. Public contact sheet was circulated a second time at this meeting.

**3.0 Neighborhood Council Board Orientation (2 hours) 7:15-9PM**

Amber Meshack, from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment provided extensive information to new and old members present in regards to: Covered are the role of you NC in your community and for your community, laws that govern NCs; City Charter, NC Plan, Brown Act PRA, ADA. Discussion of conflict of interest when you serve on an NC board and the possible consequences, states when in doubt refer to the city attorney. Understanding by-laws, Funding for NC's, having a great NC meeting, Quick question and answers. We thank Amber for the monumental amount of information and training and move forward with the agenda.

**4.0 President's Report – Brian Kito**

4.1 Neighborhood Councils must post at least ONE Brown Act compliant agenda at a physical location within the council boundaries (as opposed to the previous requirement for five locations), as well as on their website or webpage made available to them on our Empower LA website. [Policy 2014-01 Adopted 05-06-14](#)

**BOARD VOTED ON LOCATION:** Koban: 307 E. First Street, LA CA 90012 as official location.

Christopher Fudurich **MOTIONS** to approve the one brown act compliant agenda be posted at: Koban- 307 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Laura Velkei seconds

**VOTE: Unanimous with 25 board members present voting YES, 8 absent.** (See addendum "Vote Count")

Richard Estrada request caucus members continue to post at the current locations as a courtesy.

All agree it is a good idea. President Kito request each caucus submit in writing who will volunteer and be responsible for posting in their community as a courtesy, but not required .

4.2 We currently have 22 board members who have completed both the ethics and funding training regarding usage of public funds in order to vote on funding matters in the HCNC.

**5.0 Treasurer's Report:**

5.1 Discussion and action: approval of 2014-2015 budget.

Next fiscal year's budget is presented to the board for approval by treasurer Moreno.

Don Toy commented in reference to the need for more funding for translation. Treasurer stated that 10% of the budget has been allocated for translation and efforts will be made to reach out to volunteers for further assistance.

Norma Garcia expressed concern over past expenditures on translation and noted that when she came to this country she learned the language and although her English is not perfect, she made the effort in order to be a participant in the community and she also brought her daughter to help her with translation. Norma feels too much money has been spent on translation, specifically on one segment of the community. She commented that each board member should be responsible for making an effort to learn the language or provide their own translator, as she did, if they want to participate in the HCNC.

The board applauded Norma's sentiments and moves forward to VOTE on the proposed 2014-15 budget presented by the treasurer.

**MOTION:** Mark Rothenberg motions to approve the treasurer's budget for 2014-2015,  
George Yu seconds, votes are tallied.

**VOTE COUNT: Qualified members unanimously voted YES.** 17 qualified board members present voted yes.  
(See addendum "Vote Count")

5.2 Update on 2013-2014 expenditures- Treasurer presented a current expenditure report to the board.

Treasurer Moreno reported we have allocated most of the funding this year. We are pending paperwork for some facilities; Friends of Chinatown Library, Pico House, Casa Italiana. Treasurer Moreno is requesting should the paperwork not be received, we allocate the funds to the Koban as payment for use as the HCNC office rather than loose it to the city. Norma stated Pico House is owned by the city too, we therefore should allocate it's funds. Treasurer stated every effort is being made to obtain the paperwork from the entities mentioned in order to turn in to DONE by extension deadline and get payment to the facilities that have graciously donating their space for meetings. Treasurer Moreno request we move forward and request approval to allocate funds to the Koban for the use as our HCNC office, only in the case funds are not allocated in time to the listed facilities.

**MOTION:** George Yu motions to allocate unused facility funds to the Koban, Mark R. seconds,  
Votes are tallied:

**VOTE COUNT: Qualified members unanimously voted YES.** 17 qualified board members present voted yes.  
(See addendum "Vote Count")

6.0 **Committee updates-** President Kito assigns chairs to the following committees:

By-laws Committee- Lydia Moreno  
Outreach (Marketing) Committee- George Yu  
Planning (Land Use) Committee- Mark Rothenberg  
Alan Kumamoto will continue to chair the Action Committee.

7.0 **Action Committee:** No report

8.0 **New Business / Old business-** NONE

9.0 **Public Comments/Announcements-** See 1.0 above

10.0 **Next Meeting Announcements:** President Kito notes the HCNC takes July and August off.

A. General Board Meeting: TBA (9/9/2014)

B. Next action committee meeting: TBA

11.0 President Kito thanks everyone and adjourns at 9:45PM

*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](http://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 [hcncla@gmail.com](mailto:hcncla@gmail.com)*