

DRAFT

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OFFICERS  
Brian Kito, President  
Alan Kumamoto, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Edmund Soohoo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Don Toy, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
Sara Harris, Secretary  
George Yu, Treasurer  
Historian, Lydia Moreno



HISTORIC CULTURAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
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**HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**General Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6PM**  
**Casa Italiana 1051 N Broadway, 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 HCNC 305 E 1st St; Traction and Hewitt General Store 716 Traction Ave. 90013; Chinatown Public Library 639 N Hill St; La Luz del Dia 107 Paseo de la Plaza; Little Tokyo Koban 307 E 1st Street; Solano Elementary School 615 Solano Ave; and Eastside Market 1013 Alpine St. 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 [info@empowerla.org](mailto:info@empowerla.org).

**Introduction from all members**

**1.0 Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome Special Guest – Brian Kito 6:26PM**

**Total members present: 26**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Bran Kito, Alan Kumamoto, Sara Harris, George Yu, Laura Velkei, Yuval Bar-Zemer, June Berk, Andrew Lucero, Melissa Richardon-Banks, Christopher Fudurich, Peter Hick Loon Pang, Ly Chou Tran Wai So Yuan, Ne Hung Hom, Edmund Soohoo, Norman Qin Nie, Norma Garcia, Valerie Garcia-Hanley, Richard Estrada, Howard Nishimura, Stephen Nagano, Ron Fong, Yvette Grageda, Alejandra Flores, Lydia Moreno, Esther Joaquin Woo, Gi Hao Cheung, Shirley Zhang, Don Toy, Hoover Tang. **Absent:** Nick Curl  
**Special Guest:** Honorable Congressman Xavier Becerra

**Public:** Melinda Alatorre- CD1 Field Deputy, Oscar Delgado-Dodgers, Bin Zhang- Interpreter AXIOM translation, Dafne Gokcen, Rick Eng, Esther Jo, Wendell Llopis, .

**2.0 Seat New Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council Board Members**

## 2.1 Neighborhood Council Oath by the Honorable Congressman Xavier Becerra

(“Congratulations to all of you for the service that you are about to embark on. Public service is as noble a cause as you can get. You get to make some friends out of people who you thought were enemies, and you get to make enemies out of some people who you thought were friends”.)

Xavier Becerra’s comments to our newly sworn-in board: good luck in making decisions for your communities. Please call on me and on Yoo Mee Ha or Liz Saldiva if there are ways in which we can be helpful to you. I feel very blessed being able to represent the district that I do, because it is as diverse as it gets. You can eat every food imaginable, speak any language, and never leave my district. I want these neighborhoods to be considered the best places to live. Work hard, laugh every once in a while, and count on me to be there when I can. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT from Melinda Ramos Alatorre—Council District 1 is working on trash clean-up, planting, community beautification. Solano Canyon is doing a lot of community clean-up. Dodgers are a sensitive issue. We have petitions for special event permit parking. We have these in English and Spanish, and we will have these in Chinese as well. We can leave a stack with some of you for signatures. If your street is interested in getting special events permits for parking, please take these petitions. Please contact me. (Petitions available with secretary)

Liu Chou Tran: comment—a suggestion to the board—that in the future we need to have simultaneous translation.

Edmund Soohoo: the translation of the documents is simplified, not traditional Chinese. It would be preferable that we make that writing style change. The chair asks that Edmund Soohoo be the main contact for the translation services in the future, and that requests be reported to the Secretary.

Brian Kito: In the past we have not had notice that someone will not be at the meetings. We would like to know who *will* be here in order to make certain that we can pay for needed translation service in the future.

Sara Harris: I am appreciative of Don Toy and of all of you who have come this evening. We will work together to make certain that we do not have issues concerning translation at future meetings. I will work with the chair and with Edmund Soohoo to make a smooth transition.

Stephen Box, of Empower LA: clarifies that the bylaws of the HCNC and Empower L.A. require that upon the swearing in of the new board, we shall elect new officers to the executive board.

Don Toy and Valerie Hanley both request that we take more time to get to know each other before voting for an executive board.

Esther Joaquin Woo would like one month to be able to get to know each other. Father Estrada and Yuval Bar-Zemer agree.

Stephen Box says that we must elect new officers after elections.

Shirley offers her friend to translate.

Stephen Box makes a point for the record: the city election procedures dictates that the first orders of business is the seat the board and then to seat the officers. Then we may have a discussion. This meeting right now is legitimate. We have a quorum. The administrative authority requires that we vote today in order to proceed as a board. In order to avoid losing more time during this meeting, we must elect officers at this meeting.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

##### 3.0 Election of Board Officers/ Board Designation

##### 3.1 Election of Officers:

1. Ron Fong nominates Brian Kito as president.

Howard Nishimura seconds.

Mr. Kito accepts.

Valery Garcia Hanley nominates herself for president.

Don Toy seconds.

Ms. Garcia Hanley accepts.

#### VOTES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

George Yu: Brian

Laura: Brian

Mark: Brian

Yuval: Valery

Andrew: not present

Melissa: Brian

George: Brian

Christopher: Brian

Alan Kumamoto: Brian

Peter: abstain

Ly Chou Tran: abstain

Wai So Yuan: abstain

Ne Hom Huang: abstain

Edmund: Valery

Norman: abstain

Norma: Valery

Valery: Valery  
Father Estrada: Brian  
Howard: Brian  
Steve: Brain  
Brian: Brian  
Ron: Brian  
Yvette: Brian  
Sara: Brain  
Alejandra: Brian  
Lydia: Brian  
Esther: abstain  
Gi Hao: Brian  
Shirley: Brian  
Don Toy: abstain  
Hoover: Brian  
Nick : not presents  
June Aochi Berk: Brian  
(20 for Brian, 7 abstentions, 4 for Valery Hanley)  
BRIAN KITO IS ELECTED

2. George Yu nominates Alan Kumamoto for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.  
Laure Velkei seconds.

30 in favor, one abstention (Valerie Hanley)  
ALAN KUMAMOTO IS ELECTED FIRST V.P.

3. Sara nominates George Yu for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.  
Howard seconds.

Don Toy nominates Edmund Soohoo for Second Vice President  
Valerie Hanley seconds.

VOTES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

George Yu: George  
Laura: George  
Mark: George  
Yuval: not present  
Andrew: not present  
Melissa: George  
George Rollins: George  
June Aochi Berk: George  
Christopher: George  
Alan Kumamoto: George  
Peter: Edmund  
Ly Chou Tran: Edmunds  
Wai So Yuan: Edmund

Ne Hom Huang: Edmund  
Edmund: Edmund  
Norman: Edmund  
Norma: Edmund  
Valery: Edmund  
Father Estrada: George  
Howard: George  
Steve: Edmund  
Brian: George  
Ron: George  
Yvette: George  
Sara: George  
Alejandra: George  
Lydia: George  
Esther: Edmund  
Gi Hao: Edmund  
Shirley: George  
Don Toy: Edmund  
Hoover: Edmund  
Nick: not present  
(17 for George Yu , 13 for Edmund Soohoo, 3 not present, no abstentions)

4. Third Vice President:  
George nominates Mark. Laura seconds.  
Norma nominates Valerie Hanley, Father Estrada seconds.

VOTES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

George Yu: Mark  
Laura: Mark  
Mark: Mark  
Yuval: not present  
Andrew: not present  
Melissa: Mark  
George Rollins: Mark  
June Aochi Berk: Mark  
Christopher: Mark  
Alan Kumamoto: Mark  
Peter: Valery  
Ly Chou Tran: Valery  
Wai So Yuan: Valery  
Ne Hom Huang: Valery  
Edmund: Valery  
Norman: Valery  
Norma: Valery  
Valery: Valery  
Father Estrada: Valery

Howard: Mark  
Steve: Mark  
Brian: Mark  
Ron: Mark  
Yvette: Mark  
Sara: Mark  
Alejandra: Mark  
Lydia: Mark  
Esther: Valery  
Gi Hao: Valery  
Shirley: Mark  
Don Toy: Valery  
Hoover: Mark

TOTAL: Valerie 12, Mark 18, 3 not present, no abstentions  
MARK ROTHENBERG IS ELECTED 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

#### 5. Fourth Vice President

Brian nominates Valerie, Sara seconds. Valerie does not accept.  
Mark nominates Lydia. Lydia declines.

George nominates Shirley. Brian seconds. Shirley accepts.  
9 abstentions, 21 in favor. 3 absent.

George Yu: Mark  
Laura: Mark  
Mark: Mark  
Yuval: not present  
Andrew: not present  
Melissa: Mark  
George Rollins: Mark  
June Aochi Berk: Mark  
Christopher: Mark  
Alan Kumamoto: Mark  
Peter: Valery  
Ly Chou Tran: Valery  
Wai So Yuan: Valery  
Ne Hom Huang: Valery  
Edmund: Valery  
Norman: Valery  
Norma: Valery  
Valery: Valery  
Father Estrada: Valery  
Howard: Mark  
Steve: Mark  
Brian: Mark

Ron: Mark  
Yvette: Mark  
Sara: Mark  
Alejandra: Mark  
Lydia: Mark  
Esther: Valery  
Gi Hao: Valery  
Shirley: Mark  
Don Toy: Valery  
Hoover: Mark  
Nick Curl: not present

6. Ron Fong nominates Sara Harris for secretary , Brian Kito seconds. Sara accepts.

George Yu: in favor  
Laura: in favor  
Mark: in favor  
Yuval: not present  
Andrew: not present  
Melissa: in favor  
George Rollins: in favor  
June Aochi Berk: in favor  
Christopher: in favor  
Alan Kumamoto: in favor  
Peter: abstains  
Ly Chou Tran: abstains  
Wai So Yuan: abstains  
Ne Hom Huang: abstains  
Edmund: in favor  
Norman: abstains  
Norma: in favor  
Valery: in favor  
Father Estrada: in favor  
Howard: in favor  
Steve: in favor  
Brian: in favor  
Ron: in favor  
Yvette: in favor  
Sara: in favor  
Alejandra: in favor  
Lydia: in favor  
Esther: in favor  
Gi Hao: abstains  
Shirley: in favor  
Don Toy: in favor  
Hoover: in favor

Nick Curl: not present

24 in favor. 6 abstentions. Sara Harris is elected secretary.

7. Mark nominates Lydia Moreno for treasurer. Father Estrada seconds.

George Yu: in favor

Laura: in favor

Mark: in favor

Yuval: not present

Andrew: not present

Melissa: in favor

George Rollins: in favor

June Aochi Berk: in favor

Christopher: in favor

Alan Kumamoto: in favor

Peter: abstains

Ly Chou Tran: abstains

Wai So Yuan: abstains

Ne Hom Huang: abstains

Edmund: in favor

Norman: abstains

Norma: in favor

Valery: in favor

Father Estrada: in favor

Howard: in favor

Steve: in favor

Brian: in favor

Ron: in favor

Yvette: in favor

Sara: in favor

Alejandra: in favor

Lydia: in favor

Esther: in favor

Gi Hao: abstains

Shirley: in favor

Don Toy: abstains

Hoover: in favor

Nick Curl: not present

23 in favor. 7 abstentions. 3 not present. Lydia Moreno is Treasurer.

3.2 Elect board designation of purchase card holder and second signatory—

Alan Kumamoto makes a **motion to issue card in Brian Kito's name**. Christopher seconds. All are in favor (16 certified members). **Motion approved.**



3.2.1 **Motion by George Yu for first signatory on P-Card** to be Brian Kito and second signatory to be Lydia Moreno. All are in favor (16 certified members).  
**Motion approved.**

3.3 Update Neighborhood Council Board Roster for Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (D.O.N.E.)

4.0 Approval of Previous Board Minutes.

4.1 Discussion and vote.

Ron Fong **motions to approve minutes.** Mark Rothenberg seconds. 21 in favor. 9 abstentions. **Minutes are approved.**

5.0 President's Report

5.1 Review roster of members who have completed ethics and funding training. All Board members must complete both the ethics and funding training regarding usage of public funds in order to vote on funding matters. Don Toy asks about certification for those who have taken the training in person via an agency. Tom Soon will clarify.

5.2 Board attendance:

A. Board Motion on board attendance:

HCNC By-laws— ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Sec. 4

“An officer or member of the Board of Directors will be removed from office if he fails to attend any three Board meetings during a calendar year without reasonable justification as determined by the majority of the Board and that officer or Board member shall be so notified.”

DISCUSSION:

We have been having a problem making a quorum. We have one person who has not made one meeting all year, except for today. Do we want to take action to dismiss board members who have not attended meetings. There is an issue with 3-member who have not made 3 meetings in a row.

Ms. Tran says she has not been informed of meetings. Mr. Ne Hom Huang says he never receives mail regarding the meetings. When there are special meetings, there is not enough advanced notice to make the meeting.

Don Toy explains that not receiving announcements is reasonable justification. If people do not get notification, how will you make it to the meeting? How would members like to be notified?

Christopher Fudurich **motions to remove all members who have not been to 3 or more meetings without sufficient excuse.** George Yu seconds.

(Valerie requests an amendment that would enforce this moving forward, with the stipulation that all communication needs to be in needed languages. Christopher accepts the friendly amendment. )

Discussion: Edmund Soohoo wants more outreach, agendas and minutes to be sent via mail. Melissa Richardson Banks suggests we make it the onus of the members to seek out the location of the next meeting, knowing that the meetings are every second Tuesday of the month. All meetings should be posted in the same place at the same time each month. Don Toy wants to make certain that all languages should have the same privilege. Valerie says we should send the agendas and announcement via regular mail. Shirley says we should enforce the bylaws now. Ron Fong says we are not proposing a bylaw change. We are only suggesting we enforce moving forward. Shirley wants to enforce retroactively.

**Restatement: Christopher Fudurich motions to enforce HCNC bylaws to remove all members who have missed to 3 or more meetings without sufficient excuse, from this point forward.** Melissa seconds.

28 are in favor

2 abstentions

**Motion approved.**

Discussion about language and translation appropriateness.

5.3 Propose amendments of HCNC By-laws:

A. Quorum definition change:

Discussion ensues.

Steve Nagano **motions for the following change to the bylaws: HCNC governing board quorum shall consist of the majority of the seated board members.**

This will change the existing bylaws, which currently state that we need 17 members for a quorum. Christopher Fudurich seconds.

21 in favor.

8 abstentions.

1 opposed.

George Yu: in favor

Laura: in favor

Mark: in favor

Yuval: not present

Andrew: not present

Melissa: in favor  
George Rollins: in favor  
June Aochi Berk: in favor  
Christopher: in favor  
Alan Kumamoto: in favor  
Peter: abstains  
Ly Chou Tran: abstains  
Wai So Yuan: abstains  
Ne Hom Huang: abstains  
Edmund: opposed  
Norman: abstains  
Norma: in favor  
Valery: abstains  
Father Estrada: in favor  
Howard: in favor  
Steve: in favor  
Brian: in favor  
Ron: in favor  
Yvette: in favor  
Sara: in favor  
Alejandra: in favor  
Lydia: in favor  
Esther: in favor  
Gi Hao: abstains  
Shirley: in favor  
Don Toy: abstains  
Hoover: in favor  
Nick Curl: not present

**Motion approved. Bylaws will be changed to reflect the motion.**

B. Alternates: Nominations for alternates will be take place at the first meeting of a newly elected Board. One alternate shall be appointed by each caucus. Alternates to comply with board member requirements as set by DONE.

Chair chooses to table the discussion for future a meeting.

5.4 Appoint Committee Chairpersons: Chairperson will sign up volunteers to serve on the each board and present names to HCNC board at next board meeting. Volunteers do not need to sit on the HCNC.

Any volunteers for committees should reach out to the President.

A. By- Laws Committee

B. Outreach (marketing) Committee

## C. Land Use Committee

5.4 Update on demand warrants and procedure review (see attached Demand Warrant Checklist).

5.5. Propose resolution to make year end disbursement (if budget allows) to facilities/organizations used for HCNC. If all projects are approved this evening, we will had a \$300 surplus. At the end of this budget, we should be able to distribute this to venue and refreshment fees.

2013-2014 board meetings: JACC 11/2013, 4/2014 (2)

Pico House- Hellman Quon Building 9/2013, 2/2014 (2)

Chinatown Library 10/2013, 3/2014 (2)

Casa Italiana 1/2014, 5/2014 (2)

Koban- monthly action meetings

Brian Kito **motions that any budget surplus be used for refreshments and venue donations not to exceed \$200.** Hoover Tang seconds.  
17 in favor. Unanimous. **Motion approved.**

6.0 Treasurer's Report: George Yu- Update on accounts and balances.

6.1 Board Resolution for the HCNC to contribute monies for the Congress of Neighborhoods or Budget Advocates:

BOARD VOTE on Resolution: Be it resolved that the HCNC approves the submission of this resolution authorizing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to transfer unused funds in 2013-2014 budget year from our appropriation account and into the Congress/Budget Advocacy Account No. 47J220.  
16 in favor 1 absent. Unanimous. Motion approved.

7.0 Action Committee: Project reports/Updates – Alan Kumamoto (see attached report)

7.1 Arts District action items:

A. \$2,000 Industrial District Green through Community Partners- request for maintenance of 35 trees in Arts

Districts. Submitted by Laura Velkei

Mark moves to approve. Christopher seconds. 16 in favor. 1 recusal.- Laura Velkei.  
Motion approved.

#### 7.2 Chinatown action items:

A) Edmund motions to distribute \$2000 to the Alpine Center previously approved for Firecracker Run as receivership to now be a department transfer through D.O.N.E. Motion by Sara Harris. Valerie Hanley seconds. 16 are in favor. 1 recusal- Edmund Soohoo. Motion approved.

7.3 Little Tokyo action items: A) Election Site— Little Tokyo Towers- \$200 remuneration. Christopher motions to approve. Laura seconds. 17 in favor. Unanimous motion approved.

#### 7.4 El Pueblo action items:

A. Outreach Project re- \$2,000 Olvera Street Merchants Association Foundation “Nuestra Tierra Conference.” Submitted by Diana Guerrero-Robertson. Motion to approve by Father Estrada. George Rollins seconds. 15 in favor. 2 recusals- Valerie Hanley and Norma Garcia. Motion approved.

#### 7.5 Solano Canyon action item:

A) Los Angeles Theatre Academy request additional \$950 (if budget allows) for after-school program transportation for LATA’s previously approved submission of \$1,050. Total request \$2,000. Submitted by Sara Harris. Shirley motions to approve funding. Melissa seconds. 15 in favor. Two recusals- Sara Harris and Alejandra Flores. Motion approved.

#### 7.6 Victor Heights action items

A) Eastside Market in V.H.- \$1,500 Community Outreach Project, for food and outreach materials for 200 residents. Submitted by Shirley Zhang. Motion made by Christopher Fudurich. Hoover Tang seconds. 14 in favor. One recusal.- Shirley Xiang. One absent. Motion approved.

B) Reconsideration request \$2,000 Chinatown gateway/welcome plaza—clean, refurbish and repair plaques. Submitted by Don Toy. Christopher motions to approve funding. Laura seconds. 16 in favor. One recusal- Don Toy. Motion approved.

#### 7.7 Planning Projects

#### 8.0 New Business / Old business

Valerie Hanley request future treasurer reports and budgets. Lydia Moreno commits to providing that for coming meetings.

## 9.0 Public Comments/Announcements

### 10.0 Next Meeting Announcements:

A. General Board Meeting: June 10, 2014, location TBA

B. Next action committee meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 6pm, Koban.

### 11.0 Adjournment 9:40PM

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 St., 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 Sara Harris at [hcnc@gmail.com](mailto:hcnc@gmail.com).

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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 prior to

the meeting you wish to attend by contacting [info@empowerla.org](mailto:info@empowerla.org).