

OFFICERS

Alan Kumamoto, President
Dafne Gokcen, 1st Vice President
Matthew Glaser, 2nd Vice President
Laura Velkei, 3rd Vice President
Yuval Bar-Zemer, 4th Vice President
Lydia Moreno, Treasurer
Phyllis Ling, Secretary



Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

HISTORIC CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL
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GENERAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 11, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Francis Xavier Church
222 S Hewitt St, 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 hcnccla@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 (6:45 p.m.)

President Alan Kumamoto called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Secretary Phyllis Ling performed roll call. A quorum of 17 board members was present.

Present (17): Alan Kumamoto, Angelica Moyes, Brett Louie, Don Toy, Iciar Rivera, June Aochi-Berk, Ly Chou Tran, Lynn Nakamura, Matthew Glaser, Mei Lau, Ne Hung Hom, Norma Garcia, Phyllis Ling, Ron Fong, Steve Nagano, Tuong Hoang, Valerie Garcia-Hanley.

Late Arrivals (1): George Campos (6:59 p.m.).

Absent (15): Al Soo-Hoo, Alexandra Leekley, Alexandra Owens, Dafne Gokcen, Danny M. Young, Dori Keller, Genevieve Liang, Greg Kimura, Laura Velkei, Lydia Moreno, Marc Rose, Michael Maier, Vivian Um, Xiayi "Shirley" Zhang, Yuval Bar-Zemer.

Guests: Raymond Yu; Brennan Lindner, Homeboy Industries and Olvera Street Dia de Los Muertos Festival; Jon Gordon, LA Metro; Edna Degollado, CD14; Mike Fong, EmpowerLA.

President Kumamoto read the standard opening statement provided by DONE. He also reminded the board regarding ethics and code of civility, and reviewed the removal warning. President Kumamoto noted that there was a separate special meeting agenda to address the approval of the July 10 regular meeting minutes, which was omitted from the regular meeting agenda. He also pointed out the importance of Item 4.1 on the agenda, which was to address a Brown Act violation, and added that it was important for the board to cure and correct for the board actions that were not properly identified on

the agenda for the July 10 meeting.

2 — Public Comment & Government Agency Reports (Sign-Up Sheet – 2-Minute Limit) (6:53 p.m.)

Public Comment

Raymond Yu requested a traffic signal upgrade from small 8” signal heads to large 12” signal heads at North Broadway and Bernard Streets, at all corners, but first at the southwest corner by Royal Pagoda Motel. He stated that he has been working with Laura Velkei on his request, and also requested that the intersection be converted from a 3-way intersection, to a 4-way intersection due to future development planned at that intersection.

2.1 CD 1 Updates/announcements

None

2.2 CD 14 Updates/announcements

Edna Degollado, Field Deputy from Jose Huizar’s Office, provided an update on the DTLA Cleanup. The event has been postponed from September 22 to October 20. She asked if the board could provide a representative for the committee, so that HCNC could partner with them to get volunteers. The cleanup event is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will be doing tree planting, curb painting, and debris pickup. President Kumamoto clarified that since it was not on the agenda, they could not vote to appoint a representative, and that an appointment would have to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

2.3 Other public official updates/announcements

None

George Campos arrived at 6:59 p.m. 18 board members were present.

Public Comment (continued)

Brennan Lindner provided flyers and announced the following fundraiser run events:

- Homeboy Industries 10th annual 5k event -- Saturday, September 22
- Dia de los Muertos 5k fun run -- Saturday, October 27.
- Turkey Trot Los Angeles, 5k, 10k, and Kids Widdle Wobble -- Thanksgiving Day, November 22.

He provided information about street closures, outreach to stakeholders along the routes, and offered to respond to any questions or concerns from HCNC.

Jon Gordon, Transit Security Community Liaison from the Systems Security and Law Enforcement department of LA Metro, introduced himself. He provided fact sheets about their homeless initiative outreach program and sexual harassment initiative. His contact email is gordonjo@metro.net.

2.4 DONE Updates – Mike Fong

Mary Kim was not able to attend this meeting, so Mike Fong attended in her place. He thanked the board members for their service, thanked President Kumamoto for his leadership, and announced the Congress of Neighborhoods event on Saturday, September 22.

Mike Fong provided an update on the next steps in the subdivision process. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) meeting to certify the HCNC and HCNNC bylaws has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, at 6 p.m. at Casa Italiana, 1051 North Broadway. DONE will issue a subdivision certification report during the week of September 24, hopefully on September 24. He highly recommended that HCNC convene a special meeting at the end of this month, after the board’s Brown Act violation is cured and DONE’s staff report is issued, so that the board can take an official position on the report. At the BONC meeting, they will discuss everything including board structure, bylaws, and boundaries for HCNC and HCNNC.

Iciar Rivera asked for clarification about what happens next due to the Yuval Bar-Zemer’s email

to board members that he was withdrawing his Brown Act complaint.

President Kumamoto stated that they would skip to Item 4 on the agenda. Item 4.1 was taken up by unanimous consent.

4 — President's Report - Alan Kumamoto (Discussion and Vote) (7:06 p.m.)

4.1 Report and action on July 12th and August 30, 2018 Brown Act challenges and demand to cure submitted by Yuval Bar-Zemer for the Neighborhood Council Board discussing and taking action on 2 Little Tokyo Caucus Bylaws motions under agenda item 4.2 "Bylaws" at the July 10, 2018 Board Meeting. The submitted Demand requested only a partial cure and correct of the following action items as follows:

"Pursuant to that provision (Government Code Section 54960.1), I demand that the HCNC cure and correct the illegally taken action as follows:

- 1) Formal and explicit withdrawal of the motion to consider the illegally noticed "Little Tokyo bylaws". Item was not properly agendized and the public was deprived of notice. The action is an illegal vote and must be rescinded or deemed illegal.
- 2) Formal and explicit withdrawal of the motion to move the illegally noticed and failed "Little Tokyo by laws" forward."

In reviewing the July 10, 2018 Agenda, Agenda item 4.2 "Bylaws" did not provide any information to the public on any of the proposed bylaw amendments that were discussed and voted on by the Board. The Board was to address bylaw amendments involving the NC Boundaries and Board Composition as authorized by the Subdivision Ordinance. Agenda Item 4.2 "Bylaws did not provide sufficient information to the public as to which bylaws sections were being considered for amendment in accordance with the Subdivision ordinance.

To cure and correct the challenged action, as well as the complete Brown Act deficiency, the Board will discuss and take possible action to vote to set aside, all discussions and actions at the July 10 Board Meeting related to 'Agenda Item 4.2 "Bylaws" that were not listed on the Agenda. The actions taken by the Board on Agenda Item 4.2 were (1) the approval of the Bylaws Committee proposed Bylaw Amendments, (2) the vote against adoption of the Bylaw amendments submitted by the Little Tokyo Caucus and (3) approving the submission of both the Bylaw Committee and the Little Tokyo Caucus Bylaw Amendments to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

The corrective action to be taken on Agenda Item 4.2 from the July 10, 2018 meeting is as follows:

- a. **Motion to set aside the discussion and vote on the Bylaws Committee Bylaws amendments;**
- b. **Motion to set aside the discussion and vote on the Little Tokyo Caucus Bylaw amendments;**
- c. **Motion to set aside the discussion and vote on submitting both the Bylaws Committee and Little Tokyo Caucus Bylaw Amendments to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.**

President Kumamoto provided a summary of the Brown Act complaint, the reasons why the board actions related to bylaws at the July 10 meeting needed to be rescinded, and noted that the reason for calling the August 28th special meeting was to rescind those actions. That special meeting, however, did not reach quorum. He added that due to the Brown Act violation related to the agenda for the July 10 meeting, legal counsel has advised that all three actions related to bylaws be set aside by the board, not only the two originally requested by Mr. Bar-Zemer. President Kumamoto clarified that regardless of Mr. Bar-Zemer's withdrawal of his Brown Act complaint, there was still a Brown Act violation, in that the general public was provided insufficient information on the agenda for the items that were discussed by the board. Therefore, the board still needs to officially rescind those actions.

Don Toy stated that he has raised this issue for many years about agenda items not being properly written and specific enough, but has always been outvoted by other members of the Executive Committee, including Yuval Bar-Zemer and Laura Velkei. He asked if it was necessary for there to be a

formal Brown Act complaint in order for these types of corrections to be made. President Kumamoto noted that he has distributed a document from the City Attorney to all board members about the Brown Act, to help board members understand what is required to be in compliance. He stated that, for example, he hopes in the future that if any agenda items are not written clearly enough, they would be challenged by board members before any Brown Act violations occur.

Ne Hung Hom, Ly Chou Tran, and Tuong Hoang provided comment in Chinese. Don Toy was asked to translate their comments. He summarized their comments that they have been on the board for many years, and they have sat through several meetings without an interpreter even though there has been a standing request for one. Also, in the past, DONE has said that funding for translation should come out of general funds, not from Chinatown's community funds. President Kumamoto explained that because the board has not approved a budget, which was on the agenda for this meeting, the board is currently limited in the funds it can use for administration, which only covers basic printing of materials. He noted that this was the reason an interpreter could not be provided for this meeting, that it was not due to budget allocations. He asked that these board members stay, so that the board could pass a budget, and added that translation of materials has been provided by a volunteer. Don Toy noted that the materials were not distributed until the day of the meeting, and this was not enough time for review, whether in English or in Chinese. Don Toy translated the President's request in Chinese. Tuong Hoang and Ne Hung Hom commented in Chinese and Don Toy translated. Mr. Hoang stated that he was not comfortable voting on items without a translator, and that he really does try to make an effort to understand the issues that the board considers. Mr. Hom commented that the translator has been requested many times for many years. President Kumamoto reiterated that there was no budget in place, which was the reason there was no interpreter. Don Toy challenged the assertion that there was no money in the budget for an interpreter, and stated that the money for translation needs to be taken from general funds, as stated in the past by Stephen Box, and not from Chinatown's community funds.

Don Toy, Tuong Hoang, Ne Hung Hom, and Ly Chou Tran left the meeting at 7:19 p.m. 14 board members were present.

President Kumamoto announced that quorum was lost, so he must adjourn the meeting. He added that due to the lack of quorum, the board could not approve any documents, including the Self-Assessment and Budget. He noted that the materials were translated, so there was a good faith effort to include the Chinese-speaking members in the meeting.

After approximately 15 minutes, and after no additional board members had arrived, President Kumamoto announced that the meeting was adjourned.

9 — Adjournment at 7:36 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 like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact hcnccla@gmail.com.