

HCNNC

HISTORIC CULTURAL NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

CHINATOWN • EL PUEBLO • SOLANO CANYON • VICTOR HEIGHTS



Friday, November 15, 2019 – 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

General Board Meeting

通用董事會會議 · Reunión de la Junta

Grand Star Restaurant, 943 N. Broadway (Sun Mun Way), Los Angeles, CA 90012

MINUTES

I. **Welcoming Remarks (5:48 p.m.)**

A. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Toy at 5:48 p.m.

Approximately 6 individuals were in the audience. A Cantonese interpreter, a technician for the translation equipment, and Mario Hernandez, DONE Representative, were present.

II. **Establishment of Quorum (5:48 p.m.)**

A. **Roll Call** -- 14 board members were present at 5:48 p.m. There was quorum.

	Present		Present		Present		Present
Huiling Cai	✓	Tuong Hoang	✓	Phyllis Ling	✓	Steve Rice	✓
Norma Garcia	✓	Ne Hung Hom	✓	Bryce Louie	Arrived 6:28pm	Don Toy	✓
Wilson Gee	Absent	Mei Wah Lau	✓	Miho Murai	✓	Esther Woojan	Absent
Paul Hanley	✓	Xiao Ping Liang	✓	Tony Quon	✓	Wai So Yuan	✓
Valerie Hanley	✓						

III. **Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the HCNNC Special Meeting of October 25, 2019. (5:51 p.m.)**

Board Discussion: Correction from Miho Murai: under “Old Business,” she stated that she was interested in serving on the Budget Committee.

Motion: Approve the minutes of the HCNNC Special Meeting of October 25, 2019 meeting with the correction from Miho Murai (Miho Murai motioned, Mei Wah Lau seconded).

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: 13-Yes, 1-Ineligible (Huiling Cai). MOTION PASSED.

IV. **General Public comment on non-agenda items (5:54 p.m.)**

A. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items (Up to two minutes per speaker)**

Raymond Yu – Signal light upgrade to 12” large signal heads is needed at Broadway/Bernard.

Iciar Rivera – Interested in serving on the Land Use Committee. She provided background on her qualifications including serving on HCNC’s LUC and attending PlanCheckNC meetings.

Bill Chin – Requested aerial light “Cobra head” on the power pole at 842 N Beaudry Ave, w/ auto photocell, or, higher intensity lighting on Beaudry between Alpine and Figueroa Terrace.

Reported a burnt out light at College Street bridge, and at island at Beaudry/Sunset.

V. **Community/Government reports & announcements (6:01 p.m.)**

A. **LA City Council District Representatives** – None.

B. **Public Safety** – None.

C. **Other Government Departments/Agencies, including the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment representatives**

Mario Hernandez (DONE) – Census 2020 is online, asking each NC to have 2 liaisons. November 19 training 6:30-8:30 p.m., board vote not needed. Asked board members to fill out NC demographic survey.

Chair Toy asked how Chinese-speaking board members can contact the City Attorney for conflict of interest questions. Mario Hernandez will check, and asked for a reminder email. David Louie, El Pueblo Commissioner – Reported on strategic plan for El Pueblo for 2020, and also general real estate plan regarding activities that can or cannot occur at El Pueblo. Valerie Hanley has been reporting for HCNNC at El Pueblo Commission meetings.

D. *Community Organizations* – None.

VI. Executive Committee Officer’s Reports (6:09 p.m.)

A. *Chair’s Report*

Memorial service for Dr. William Chun-Hoon, first Chinese American school principal in LAUSD. Board members Esther Woojan and Wilson Gee are absent due to health issues.

B. *Vice Chair #1 & #2 Reports*

Mei Wah Lau – Submitted the application for Chinatown Library for the December 13 special meeting. HCNNC will need to pay for a security guard. The last supermarket in Chinatown, Ai Hoa, is closing in 1 month. Valerie Hanley shared that the new CVS at La Plaza Village is planning to have groceries.

C. *Secretary’s Report*

No absences were counted from the last meeting, as it was a special meeting. Board members are counted absent if they leave early and miss more than 1/3 of the meeting time.

D. *Treasurer’s Report*

1. *Discussion and possible action to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for September 2019.*

Motion: Approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) of September 2019 (Steve Rice motioned, Valerie Hanley seconded).

Board Comment: Miho Murai asked when reimbursements for translation expenses will be reflected in the MERs. Mario Hernandez clarified that City Clerk’s Office will automatically reimburse those expenses on a monthly or quarterly basis, and it will be reflected in the “Beginning Balance.” Phyllis Ling asked why items have “??” in the descriptions. Treasurer Rice clarified that he didn’t know what he was supposed to put in those fields, was reprimanded by City Clerk’s Office, but they accepted the MER.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: 12-Yes, 1-Abstain, 1-Ineligible, 3-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

	VOTE		VOTE		VOTE		VOTE
Huiling Cai	Ineligible	Tuong Hoang	Yes	Phyllis Ling	Yes	Steve Rice	Yes
Norma Garcia	Yes	Ne Hung Hom	Yes	Bryce Louie	Absent	Don Toy	Yes
Wilson Gee	Absent	Mei Wah Lau	Yes	Miho Murai	Abstain	Esther Woojan	Absent
Paul Hanley	Yes	Xiao Ping Liang	Yes	Tony Quon	Yes	Wai So Yuan	Yes
Valerie Hanley	Yes						

2. *Discussion and possible action to approve the payment of \$250 to Plum Tree Restaurant for the rental of meeting room for the October 25, 2019 meeting.*

Motion: Approve the payment of \$250 to Plum Tree Restaurant for the rental of the meeting room for the October 25, 2019 meeting (Steve Rice motioned, Ne Hung Hom seconded).

Board Comment: Miho Murai asked if there was an invoice, and preferred to have something in writing. Treasurer Rice stated that he tried to pay with the HCNNC credit card, but it was declined. He did not get an invoice from the restaurant.

Public Comment: David Louie noted the restaurant was 50 yards away if the board needed an invoice.

Vote on Motion: 12-Yes, 1-Abstain, 1-Ineligible, 3-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

	VOTE		VOTE		VOTE		VOTE

Huilong Cai	Ineligible	Tuong Hoang	Yes	Phyllis Ling	Yes	Steve Rice	Yes
Norma Garcia	Yes	Ne Hung Hom	Yes	Bryce Louie	Absent	Don Toy	Yes
Wilson Gee	Absent	Mei Wah Lau	Yes	Miho Murai	Abstain	Esther Woojan	Absent
Paul Hanley	Yes	Xiao Ping Liang	Yes	Tony Quon	Yes	Wai So Yuan	Yes
Valerie Hanley	Yes						

- 3. *Discussion and possible action to approve the payment of \$166 to Languages4You for the written translation of the October 25, 2019 meeting agenda into Chinese.*

Motion: Approve the payment of \$166 to Languages4You for the written translation of the October 25, 2019 meeting agenda into Chinese (Steve Rice motioned, Miho Murai seconded).

Bryce Louie arrived at 6:28 p.m. 15 board members were present.

Board Comment: None.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: 13-Yes, 2-Ineligible, 2-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

	VOTE		VOTE		VOTE		VOTE
Huilong Cai	Ineligible	Tuong Hoang	Yes	Phyllis Ling	Yes	Steve Rice	Yes
Norma Garcia	Yes	Ne Hung Hom	Yes	Bryce Louie	Ineligible	Don Toy	Yes
Wilson Gee	Absent	Mei Wah Lau	Yes	Miho Murai	Yes	Esther Woojan	Absent
Paul Hanley	Yes	Xiao Ping Liang	Yes	Tony Quon	Yes	Wai So Yuan	Yes
Valerie Hanley	Yes						

VII. Old Business (6:29 p.m.)

- A. *Discussion and possible action on the appointment of an NC Sustainability Liaison.*

Chair Toy asked what happens if the board cannot find someone to be a liaison. Mario Hernandez clarified that sometimes the responsibility falls on the Chair/President. No action taken.

- B. *Discussion and possible action to appoint members to HCNNC’s standing committees.*

Note: Per Article VII, Section 3.B Committee members are appointed by the Chair and confirmed by half majority vote of the Board. Committees shall be comprised of at least three, but no more than four Board Members and may include any interested Stakeholder.

Board Comment: The Chairs of the Budget and Finance, Outreach and Communications, and Schools and Libraries Committees did not have commitments from three board members to form each committee. Phyllis Ling suggested that the bylaws be revised to not require three board members per committee.

- Budget and Finance*
- Outreach and Communications*
- Planning and Land Use*
- Schools and Libraries*
- Arts, Parks, Recreation, and Culture*

Board Comment: Valerie Hanley volunteered to chair the committee. Chair Toy appointed Valerie Hanley as Chair. Valerie Hanley stated her experience with cultural events on Olvera Street; El Pueblo includes many cultural organizations including Chinese American Museum and Italian American Museum.

Motion: Approve Valerie Hanley as the Chair of the Arts, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Committee (Paul Hanley motioned, Steve Rice seconded).

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: 13-Yes, 1-Abstain (Valerie Hanley), 1-Ineligible (Huilong Cai), 2-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

- C. *Discussion and possible action to select a regular meeting place for the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council regular meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month. Location subject to ADA compliance.*

Miho Murai commented that it was important to find a location that has free parking, especially because the meetings start at 5:45 p.m. Chair Toy noted the difficulty of finding a location that was ADA compliant, including parking and restrooms.

No action taken.

D. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$1000.00 per month for a minute taker and administrative personnel using a City approved temporary employment agency.

1. *Minute taker – take notes at meetings, draft minutes*
2. *Administrative Assistant – make copies, and provide support on meeting days, post notices, check and send mail, and perform other day-to-day administrative tasks to support the Board. Discussion of parameter of duties.*

Chair Toy indicated that the duties assigned at the Executive Committee meeting were temporary commitments. Steve Rice agreed to start negotiating with the temp agencies if the board approves funds. Mario Hernandez noted that minutes-takers should only cost \$100-\$150 per month, and when we hire, we need to give the vendors the scope of work and estimated number of hours. There were board member volunteers for the following tasks:

- Take and produce minutes: Phyllis Ling and Miho Murai (if Secretary is absent).
- Posting agendas: Mei Wah Lau, Phyllis Ling, Valerie Hanley, and Miho Murai.
- Make and pick up copies of documents for meetings: Miho Murai and Valerie Hanley.
- Check and send mail: Valerie Hanley (if HCNNC gets a free mailbox at El Pueblo, See VII.F.).

Valerie Hanley noted that board members are willing to do the jobs right now, to see how it goes, and recommended holding off on approving the expense; that money could be spent in the community. Steve Rice asked why HCNNC can't hire someone from the community who speaks Toisan. The person can apply to work at one of the city-approved temp agencies.

No action taken.

E. Discussion and update on the development of the official website for HCNNC.

Chair Toy asked if anyone wanted to find someone to develop the website. Phyllis Ling suggested referring this to the Outreach Committee. She added that if anyone wants to improve or redo the existing website, she did not have a problem with that, but she was willing to continue to update it. It is already bilingual. Chair Toy asked about content for Chinese speakers. Valerie Hanley noted that the website already has the basic, necessary information, such as meeting agendas, and if there were events that people wanted to share, they could send them to Phyllis.

No action taken.

F. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$400.00 for the annual rental of a United States Postal Service P.O. Box for the official mailing address of the HCNNC.

Valerie Hanley shared that a free mailbox is available at El Pueblo through the City. Mario Hernandez noted that because neighborhood councils aren't allowed to receive donations, there would need to be a written agreement executed by City Clerk. Valerie Hanley and Miho Murai volunteered to look into getting an agreement for the mailbox at El Pueblo.

No action taken.

At 7:19 p.m., the board took up item VIII. D. by unanimous consent.

VIII. New Business (7:19 p.m.)

- D. Discussion and possible action on a project proposed at 534 Casanova Street, Case No.: AA-2019-31-PMLA-SL. Applicant requests a letter of support. PURSUANT TO LAMC 12.22 C27(A), REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY PARCEL MAP FOR SMALL LOT SUBDIVISION TO CREATE 3 NEW PARCELS. PURSUANT TO LAMC 17.53J, REQUEST FOR LESS THAN 20% DEVIATION FROM ALLOWED UNIT DENSITY TO ALLOW 3 DWELLING UNITS. PURSUANT TO LAMC 12.24.X.7, ALLOW FENCES AND WALLS UP TO 8 FEET IN HEIGHT.*

Applicant: Robert Johnson

Presentation by Rick Corsini, AIA, Corsini Stark Architects.

Robert Johnson introduced himself. He and his wife bought the property three years ago.

There is currently a 100 year old Craftsman house on the property. Architect Rick Corsini

made the presentation. Lot is 40' wide x 139' long with a 12 foot wide alley in the rear. They are proposing 3 single family homes, 3 stories each, for sale, approximately 1800 sqft each. Middle and rear units have roof terrace. Tandem parking garages for each unit. Exterior finish is smooth troweled white plaster, black aluminum windows, zinc-colored metal accents.

Board Comments/Questions:

MM- Will the tenants be evicted? They would not evict, will wait for the tenants leave to build.

DT- What if the tenants don't want to leave? They will renew the entitlements every 5 years.

SR- What is the width of Casanova Street? Is highway dedication needed? Asking for variances? How much would each unit sell for? Casanova Street is 45' wide. There is highway dedication, 3ft widening. This project is by-right, not asking for variances. This would be the first small lot subdivision in Solano Canyon. ZA requests are to round up density calculation 20% and allow higher fences in sections to allow 3ft guard rail along stairs due to topography. May sell for \$1 million if they were selling today.

DT- What is current zoning? What is each lot size? RD2-1VL. 2098 sqft, 1506 sqft, 1860 sqft.

PL- Are they planning to sell the project with entitlements? They don't think so, especially if the market holds. His family may live in one and sell or rent out the others. Not sure yet.

PL- Project is modern, boxy design in one of the oldest historic neighborhoods of LA. How do they describe architectural character of neighborhood? A hodgepodge/mixture, transitional.

VH- This council represents historic neighborhoods, so style of project is a concern.

DT- For a letter of support, would like to see outreach. Have there been other community meetings in Solano Canyon? This was only outreach. Because it is by-right, letter of support is not really needed. The City Planning hearing is December 11.

Public Comment:

Bill Chin - There is already a big box on Casanova Street and Broadway with 40 units and no character, an eye-sore. He is pro-money in the neighborhood.

David Louie – Project does not reflect character of community. He has seen new projects blend into old/historic neighborhoods, and this doesn't do that. He noted the massing of these units with small setback, gentrification, and asked whether there were any community benefits. The applicant asked if there were any suggestions from community.

No action taken.

At 7:49 p.m., the board took up item VII. J. by unanimous consent.

- VII. J. Discussion and possible action to appoint the HCNNC Bylaws Committee Chair and members in accordance with the HCNNC Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3. Committee Chairs are appointed by the Chair and confirmed by half majority of the Board)**

Huiling Cai confirmed that she has a conflict, and has resigned as Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Chair Toy appointed Phyllis Ling as Chair of the Bylaws Committee.

Motion: Approve Phyllis Ling as the Chair of the ad hoc Bylaws Committee (Miho Murai motioned, Tony Quon seconded).

Vote on Motion: 14-Yes, 1-Ineligible (Huiling Cai), 2-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

Phyllis Ling appointed Miho Murai, Don Toy, and Valerie Hanley as members of the committee.

Motion: Approve Miho Murai, Don Toy, and Valerie Hanley as members of the ad hoc Bylaws Committee (Steve Rice motioned, Tony Quon seconded).

Vote on Motion: 14-Yes, 1-Ineligible (Huiling Cai). MOTION PASSED.

- IX. Board member comments and announcements**

December 16-24 are the Las Prosadas processions in El Pueblo every night.

- X. Adjournment (7:55 p.m.)**

Motion: Adjourn the meeting (Miho Murai motioned, Bryce Louie seconded).

Vote on Motion: 14-Yes, 1-Ineligible (Huiling Cai). MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

No other items on the agenda were considered as the deadline to vacate the facility was reached.

Officers

Don Toy Chair	Mei Wah Lau 1st Vice-Chair	Bryce Louie 2nd Vice-Chair	Phyllis Ling Secretary	Steve Rice Treasurer
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Neighborhood Representatives

Xiao Ping Liang Chinatown At-Large Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner Representative	Mei Wah Lau Chinatown Business Owner/ Employee Representative	Wai So Yuan Chinatown Non-Profit Representative	Tuong Hoang Chinatown Residential Representative	Ne Hung Hom Chinatown Residential Representative
Paul Hanley El Pueblo At-Large Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner Representative	Norma Garcia El Pueblo Business Owner/ Employee Representative	Valerie Hanley El Pueblo Non-Profit Representative	Huilin Cai Solano Canyon Residential Representative	Phyllis Ling Solano Canyon Residential Representative
Wilson Gee Solano Canyon Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner Representative	Steve Rice Victor Height Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property-Owner Representative	Don Toy Victor Heights Residential Representative	Esther Woojan Victor Heights Residential Representative	Bryce Louie At-Large Youth Representative
Miho Murai At-Large Representative	Tony Guon At-Large Representative			

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