

HCNNC

HISTORIC CULTURAL NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

CHINATOWN • EL PUEBLO • SOLANO CANYON • VICTOR HEIGHTS



Friday, February 21, 2020 – 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

General Board Meeting

通用董事會會議 • Reunión de la Junta

Chinatown Branch Library, 639 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

MINUTES

1 — *Welcoming Remarks - Call to Order and Introductions (5:45 p.m.)*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Toy at 5:45 p.m.

One stakeholder was in the audience. A Cantonese interpreter, a technician for the translation equipment, a security guard, and Mario Hernandez, DONE Representative, were present. (Approximately 3 other stakeholders and representative from CD1 arrived later.)

2 — *Establishment of Quorum - Roll Call (5:45 p.m.)*

14 board members were present at 5:45 p.m. There was quorum.

	Present		Present		Present		Present
Huiling Cai	✓	Tuong Hoang	Arrived 5:47pm	Phyllis Ling	✓	Steve Rice	✓
Norma Garcia	✓	Ne Hung Hom	✓	Bryce Louie	Absent	Don Toy	✓
Wilson Gee	✓	Mei Wah Lau	✓	Miho Murai	✓	Esther Woojan	✓
Paul Hanley	✓	Xiao Ping Liang	✓	Tony Quon	✓	Wai So Yuan	Absent
Valerie Hanley	✓						

Chair Toy announced that the minutes taker and administrative assistant were hired, but were not present. Steve Rice clarified that right before the meeting, they were in a car accident. Miho Murai asked who would be making the copies of documents for meetings. Chair Toy clarified that they will be making the copies, producing minutes, and posting agendas.

Tuong Hoang arrived at 5:47 p.m. 15 board members were present.

Chair Toy skipped to item 5.1.

5 — *Community/Government Reports & Announcements (5:48 p.m.)*

5.1 *LA City Council District Representatives*

Ricardo Flores, field deputy for CD1 announced they are planning a health fair for the community on March 21. They will have free eyesight, dental, and diabetes checks. 15 different agencies will attend the event. If the board is interested in taking part, he can reach out to board members individually. It will be at William Mead Homes. They will take over the baseball field.

3 — *Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the HCNNC General Board Meeting of January 17, 2020. (5:53 p.m.)*

Motion: Approve the minutes of the HCNNC General Board Meeting of January 17, 2020 (Miho Murai motioned, Mei Wah Lau seconded).

Board Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (15-Yes, 2-Absent). MOTION PASSED.

4 — General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (Up to two minutes per speaker) (5:57 p.m.)

Raymond Yu requested replacement and upgrade of all signal lights at North Broadway and Bernard Streets. He has spoken to Ricardo Flores about this. He noted the signal lights are mismatched, and cited Royal Pagoda Hotel and the two towers planned nearby. Mr. Yu announced a Lantern Festival, events at Olvera Street, and submitted maps of upcoming LA Marathon and Ciclavia in South LA.

Susan O'Leary urged the board to approve \$25k-\$30k for neighborhood purpose grants. These funds should be used for community projects. Announcing that these funds are available would also announce the existence of this board. This would be much better than returning the funds to the general city funds. Before signing the lease on the office space, she hopes that the board has a full list of ancillary expenses including phones, internet, tables and chairs, and who would staff it. She suggested renting Chinatown Library for office space.

Bill Chin stated that he was interested in serving on the land use committee. He asked whom he should speak to about being appointed to the committee, and who does the appointing. Miho Murai clarified that Wilson Gee is the person to speak to as the Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee. Wilson Gee clarified that he appoints the members of that committee, and the board approves them.

5 — Community/Government Reports & Announcements (6:05 p.m.)

5.1 LA City Council District Representatives

Chair Toy asked Ricardo Flores of CD1 if he knows who is the field deputy for CD14. He suggested contacting Lucy Aparicio.

5.2 Public Safety – None.

5.3 Other Government Departments/Agencies, including the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment representatives – None.

5.4 Community Organizations – None.

6 — Executive Committee Officer's Reports (6:06 p.m.)

6.1 Chair's Report

Chair Toy noted that the deadline is coming up for spending money, and suggested there are other expenses besides neighborhood purpose grants (NPGs). He has asked the Treasurer to get an accurate accounting of the money left. Treasurer Rice noted that the net available funds as of today was \$51,039.31.

Mario Hernandez noted that the information is available on the funding portal. HCNNC can spend money until May 30th because that's when City Clerk shuts everything down.

Chair Toy announced he expects to call special meetings in the next several months, starting as early as next week. He encouraged the committees to meet as well.

The office is not only for board meetings, but can also be used for committee meetings, and events like CPR classes.

A minutes-taker and administrative assistant were hired from AppleOne.

Chair Toy asked Wilson Gee to comment on the Firecracker race, which raises and donates money to non-profit organizations in the community. Susan O'Leary suggested that they provide a table/booth for HCNNC or any non-profit at the event, and volunteered to sit at the booth. Wilson Gee suggested they could do that next year, free of charge.

Computers were offered to be donated to HCNNC from PACE. NCs can't accept donations. A former NC board member was able to arrange for them to be donated to Cal State LA to use for computer classes.

Chair Toy stated that he did not set this agenda, and that it had changed from the time he had set it on the Thursday or Friday, over a week prior to the meeting.

6.2 Vice Chair #1 & #2 Reports

Vice Chair Mei Wah Lau asked if board members received an email from a person named Angel. They are coordinating a project on Bamboo Lane. She asked how to relay questions from stakeholders. Chair Toy suggested that the administrative assistant can follow up with stakeholders.

Vice Chair Lau also noted the impact of coronavirus on the community. There is only 1 case in Los Angeles County, but kids are being discriminated against, and business is hurting in Chinatown. Restaurants are not as busy, and even the Firecracker run was not as busy. She had a meeting with CCBA, and they are trying to combat rumors, letting folks know that they don't have to be afraid. They recommend paying attention to personal hygiene, and washing hands a lot.

Chair Toy noted that Cathay Manor and Grand Plaza have had information sessions about the coronavirus. Racism is a problem.

6.3 Secretary's Report

Secretary Ling reported on absences.

She distributed a separate sheet to each board member with their current contact information, phone, mailing address, and email, and asked board members to make any corrections and return the form to her.

To regulate workflow, she asked committee chairs to send meeting agendas and documents at least 48 hours prior to when they want the emails to be sent out, and notice posted on the website.

She noted that because of the way the board meeting agendas are put together, she recommended any agenda items be sent to her in writing at least 10 days in advance of the board meeting. Sometimes 7 days before the meeting is too late, although she tries to include items when possible.

6.4 Treasurer's Report

6.4.1 Discussion and possible action to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for January 2020.

Motion: Approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) of January 2020 (Steve Rice motioned, Mei Wah Lau seconded).

Board Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: 15-Yes, 1-Ineligible, 1-Absent. MOTION PASSED.

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

Ricardo Flores asked for all of the Committee Chairs. The Secretary volunteered to email him that information.

7 — Committee Reports (6:38 p.m.)

7.1 Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee

7.1.1 Discussion and possible action to approve the bylaws amendments recommended by the Bylaws Committee at the December 6 committee meeting. (12-06-2019-Bylaws Committee Amendments.pdf)

Motion: Approve bylaws changes recommended by the Bylaws Committee on 12-06-19. (Phyllis Ling motioned, Miho Murai seconded).

Board Discussion: There was disagreement about whether the Chinese-speaking board members had enough time and notice to understand these amendments. There was also the suggestion to divide these amendments and vote on them individually, but because they were noticed as a group on the agenda, they would have to be voted on as a group. The board agreed that the Chair of the Bylaws Committee (Phyllis Ling) would explain each amendment separately, and then the board would vote on the amendments as a group.

- a) Amend Article VII, Section 3b(1), changing “Committees shall be comprised of at least three (3), but no more than four (4) Board Members” to “Committees shall be comprised of at least two (2), but no more than four (4) Board Members”.

Explanation: This amendment would change the minimum number of board members serving on a committee from 3 to 2. The reason for this change is because it has been difficult for some committees to form because they could not find more than 2 board members willing to serve on them.

- b) Add the following sentence to the end of Article VII, Section 3B: “4) Each committee shall have at least three (3) members, and may include interested stakeholder(s).”

Explanation: This amendment clarifies that each committee will continue to have at least 3 members, which is not specified elsewhere, and required since we are changing the minimum number of board members on a committee from 3 to 2.

- c) In Article VII COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES, change all instances of “half (1/2) majority” to “a majority of the total membership of the board”.

Explanation: This amendment clarifies what is meant by “half (1/2) majority” in the bylaws, but does not change the meaning. In cases where this voting threshold is specified, as opposed to the usual “simple majority”, the number of votes required for approval stays the same, regardless of how many board members are present at a meeting. For example, for this board which has 17 members, 9 YES votes are required for approval, even if only 11 board members are present at a meeting. This different voting requirement is used on certain decisions that are considered more important.

Esther Woojan and Xiao Ping Liang left the room at 7:17 p.m.

Miho Murai helped the Chinese speaking board members find the page in the board packet that lists these amendments.

Tony Quon left the room at 7:18 p.m. Steve Rice left the room at 7:19 p.m.

Tony Quon returned at 7:19 p.m. Esther Woojan and Xiao Ping Liang returned at 7:21 p.m. Steve Rice returned at 7:24 p.m.

- d) In Article VII, first paragraph, delete the third sentence, which reads as follows: “The addition of each committee member shall require half (1/2) majority vote of the Board.”

Explanation: This sentence is redundant, and noted elsewhere in the bylaws.

- e) In Article VII Section 3B, change “Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair” to “Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair of the committee.”

Explanation: This change is to clarify committee members are appointed by the Chair of the committee, not the Chair of HCNNC.

- f) In Article VII Section 3D, change “Standing committees are subject to and shall be conducted in accordance with the dictates of the Brown Act” to “All committees are subject to and shall be conducted in accordance with the dictates of the Brown Act”. Also in Article VII Section 3D, delete the second sentence which reads “The adherence to Brown Act does not apply to Ad Hoc committees.”

Explanation: Ad Hoc committees which have stakeholder members are required to adhere to the Brown Act. The Brown Act is a state law that governs how legislative bodies, such as the neighborhood council,

conduct themselves, in a transparent manner. Decisions are made at public meetings, not secret meetings. Meetings must be publicly noticed.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (16-Yes, 1-Absent). MOTION PASSED.

7.1.2 *Discussion and possible action to approve the bylaws amendments recommended by the Bylaws Committee at the January 14 committee meeting. (01-14-2020-Bylaws Committee Amendments.pdf)*

Board Discussion: The Chair of the Bylaws Committee explained each of the amendments and asked for questions.

a) In Article VI, change “Officers of the Board” and replace with “Executive Committee” wherever it refers to the committee.

Explanation: This is a change in terminology because the “Executive Committee” is more commonly used.

b) In Article VI, to the end of the first sentence “The officers of the HCNNC shall be elected by the board”, add “and serve as members of the Executive Committee.”

Explanation: This is a change to clarify that the officers serve on the Executive Committee.”

c) In Article VI Section 2A, change “half (1/2) majority vote” to “a majority vote of the total membership.”

Explanation: This is the same change as in 7.1.1 (d), but applied in another section of the bylaws.

d) In Article VI Section 2C, add “4)” after “meeting.”

Explanation: Corrects a typo under the list of the Secretary’s duties.

Public Comment: None.

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (16-Yes, 1-Absent). MOTION PASSED.

7.1.3 *Reading of amendments recommended by the Bylaws Committee at the meeting of February 10, 2020:*

(a) In Article VIII. MEETINGS, Section 2, change the third sentence from “The Secretary shall promptly refer the proposal to a Standing Committee or, at the next regular Board meeting.” to “The Secretary shall promptly refer the proposal to a Standing Committee, or have it placed on the next regular Board meeting agenda.”

(b) In Article XI. GRIEVANCE PROCESS, in the first sentence, after “place”, insert “and”.

(c) In ATTACHMENT B (on page 19), in the second row of the table, under the BOARD POSITION insert “or Employee” after “Chinatown Business Owner” and under ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR THE SEAT, insert “or employee” after “business owner”.

(d) In Article VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES, Section 1 Standing, replace “4) Schools and Libraries 5) Arts, Parks, Recreation, and Culture 6)” with “4) Education, Recreation, Arts, and Culture 5)”.

(e) In Article V. GOVERNING BOARD, SECTION 1. E, strike “or employee”.

(f) Throughout the document, replace “Board of Officers” with “Executive Committee”.

The amendments were read allowed, and a brief explanation was given for each.

Explanations:

(a) This amendment is to clarify the procedure for submitting an item to the Secretary to be placed on the agenda because the wording was a little confusing. “Proposal” refers to an item or issue that a stakeholder wants the board or committee to consider at a meeting.

(b) This amendment corrects a typo.

(c) The purpose of this amendment is to make the description of the board seat in the table ATTACHEMENT B of the bylaws consistent with the description in Article V. GOVERNING BOARD.

(d) This amendment combines two committees: The Schools and Libraries Committee with the Arts, Parks, Recreation, and Culture Committee. The new combined committee would be called the “Education, Recreation, Arts, and Culture Committee.”

- (e) This amendment changes the El Pueblo Business Owner and Employee seat to a Business Owner seat. ATTACHMENT B is already consistent with this proposed change.
- (f) This amendment is to make the change in the name of the officers' committee consistent throughout the document.

7.2 Planning & Land Use (7:45 p.m.)

Chair Wilson Gee reviewed the land use projects that are in progress in the community. He noted that some projects are already approved, so we can't do anything unless someone files a lawsuit against them.

- Bunker Hill Ave.-- 6 story/33 units and 5 story/37 units. 5 are low income units.
- 708 N Hill St., -- story building, 162 apartments. Don't know if any are affordable units.
- 643 N Spring St.-- 203 units. This could change. They are still working on entitlements.
- 211 N Spring St. -- 153 apartment units.
- 942 N Broadway --178 units, only 5 are low income.
- 1251 N Spring St., Elysian Park Lofts -- 920 units along North Broadway from Bernard St. to Solano Ave. This has been in planning for the last 2 years, and continues to change.
- 924 N Spring St., College Station -- 770 units, 0 are low income housing.

Chair Toy asked Wilson Gee to contact the council office CD1 to find out the logic of there being 0 low income units at College Station. Wilson Gee stated that he is trying to plan a meeting with CD1's planners. The planning committee will meet either on a Thursday or Friday to get more information.

- Cornfields, 28,000 sqft commercial building being planned.

There are currently 3 beer and wine clubs that are opening and have submitted CUPs. There's one at 980 N Broadway, one on Ord St, and one on Spring St. This may provide more business for Chinatown at night, but this council should hear about neighborhood concerns.

Out of the current projects proposed or in progress, there are very few low income units, fewer than 30 or 40. This is something the board may want to address.

2040 Plan for DTLA includes Chinatown. It rezones everything for higher density. Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) also allows for higher density development near major transit stations. There is a discrepancy that Councilman Ryu is trying to address related to low income housing near transit stations.

Wilson Gee noted that there was a plan made by a group called Chinatown Sustainability Dialog Group (CSDG). The plan is called "Los Angeles Chinatown Village Community Plan." It addresses development and cultural preservation. He brought a copy to the meeting. He would like to discuss this at the next board meeting after board members have reviewed it. They will be sent a copy by email prior to the meeting.

Eugene Moy from CSDG provided a brief summary of the plan and handed out a flyer. He noted that DTLA 2040 overlooks the Chinatown community, so there is a draft community plan created by community members. He invited everyone to come to the meetings of the Chinatown Sustainability Dialog Group, which has been meeting every month for past several years. The next meeting is Tuesday at CACA lodge. 7pm.

Chair Toy invited Eugene Moy to come back to present the proposal at the next HCNNC board meeting, which may occur sooner than next month.

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

12 — Adjournment (7:54 p.m.)

Motion: Adjourn the meeting (Esther Woojan motioned, Ne Hung Hom seconded).

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (16-Yes, 1-Absent). MOTION PASSED.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Officers

Don Toy Chair	Mei Wah Lau 1 st 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	Huiling 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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