

HCNNC

HISTORIC CULTURAL NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

CHINATOWN • EL PUEBLO • SOLANO CANYON • VICTOR HEIGHTS



Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Schools and Libraries Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

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MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council committee meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must join the meeting either via the “Join Online” link or the “Join by Telephone” instructions above.

1 — Welcoming Remarks - Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Miho Murai at 6:02 pm. 1 stakeholder was present.

2 — Establishment of Quorum - Roll Call

3 committee members were present. There was quorum.

Committee Member	Present	Absent
Miho Murai	X	
Phyllis Ling	X	
Valerie Hanley	X	
Vacant (Stakeholder)	N/A	N/A

3 — Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020's Schools and Libraries Committee Meeting

Motion: Approve the minutes as presented by the Chair. (Miho Murai motioned; Phyllis Ling seconded)

Mailing Address: HCNNC, 200 N Spring St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Website: HCNNC.org

Approved 12-07-2020

Committee Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (3-Yes). **MOTION PASSED.**

4 — General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (Up to two minutes per speaker)

None

5 — Old Business

- 5.1** Discussion and possible action to approve the mission of HCNNC's Schools and Libraries Committee to be: The Schools and Libraries Committee exists to support, nurture, listen to, and advocate for HCNNC's schools and libraries and to discuss relevant issues regarding education.

Motion: Approve the mission statement as stated on the 11/10/20 agenda. (Miho Murai motioned; Phyllis Ling seconded)

Committee Discussion: Miho Murai proposed the following mission statement for the Schools and Libraries Committee: *The Schools and Libraries Committee exists to support, nurture, listen to, and advocate for HCNNC's schools and libraries and to discuss relevant issues regarding education.* Miho Murai suggested adding "regarding educational equity and access" but thought that might limit the mission statement and so wanted to find out what others thought. Phyllis Ling stated that she liked the mission statement as written and to keep it broad. Valerie Hanley stated that she thought the mission statement was ok as written. Miho Murai asked Phyllis Ling to add the mission statement on the HCNNC website and Phyllis stated that she would.

Public Comment: Eugene Moy stated that what's more important is the work for the critical year and to identify goals and getting a budget. He stated that he believes the mission statement is fine as written.

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (3-Yes). **MOTION PASSED.**

- 5.2** Discussion and possible action to nominate Stakeholder(s) to the Schools and Libraries Committee.

Motion: None

Committee Discussion: Miho Murai stated that she sent out email notifications about the meeting to representatives from the local schools and the library and that she received a few responses stating that they will try to make it to the meeting. Miho Murai stated that we still need to add a stakeholder to our Committee and that she is open to having representatives from each school and the library. Miho Murai stated that we could include it in the HCNNC newsletter that we are seeking Committee members. Miho Murai stated that because of Covid and the inability to outreach to people in person, it makes it difficult to get anyone to volunteer for the Committee. Phyllis Ling stated that it is a little bit hard right now because of the way the board is and that because of the new meeting time at 4:00 pm, the Stakeholder representative from her Committee had to resign since she was unable to make the board meetings at 4:00 pm and did not feel that it would make sense to continue to be on the Outreach Committee. Phyllis Ling stated that we will just have to put the word out. Phyllis Ling stated that she does not recall having a lot of Stakeholders in the old HCNC except for the Land Use Committee and that it is not required to have Stakeholders even though it would be better to have them on the Committee. Miho Murai asked Thy Mai if she would be interested in being on the Committee as the Stakeholder Representative and explained what the role would entail. Upon hearing that Thy Mai would be interested in serving in this role, Miho Murai asked Thy Mai to confirm her interest via email and stated that the HCNNC board would need to approve the nomination.

Public Comment: Thy Mai, President of FACES, just wanted to state that she is present. Thy Mai stated that she would be interested in serving in this role and that she will send an email to Miho Murai confirming her interest.

Vote on Motion: N/A

- 5.3** Discussion and possible action to organize an "Education Town Hall Meeting" for parents, teachers, and students in order to address how COVID-19 has impacted the public education system and create opportunities for parents and students to connect with each other and share resources; discussion will also include potential dates and recommendations of a budget for this event.

Motion: None

Committee Discussion: Miho Murai stated that she has been trying to get the different schools interested in the event but since the children are not in school it has been difficult connecting with the parents and school staff. Miho Murai suggested rescheduling the event for next year. Miho Murai stated that one of the ideas that she had was to have a workshop for parents to help them with distance learning. Phyllis Ling stated that any events need to be approved 30 days in advance and that it would need to be on the board agenda for approval. Phyllis Ling wanted to know how we would be organizing the expertise for this event and whether the event would be for connecting people or for providing information to them. Miho Murai stated that it would be for providing information and for connecting people. Miho Murai stated that she wanted to have a forum for parents to connect with each other and to also have workshops on how to support parents with distance learning. Miho Murai stated that Echo Park NC had a similar event and that she would be connecting with them to get ideas. Miho Murai stated that we should come up with a date soon so that we can put it on the board agenda. Miho Murai stated that the consensus would be to move the event to January and that she will continue to outreach to schools to see if they would be interested in participating.

Public Comment: Thy Mai stated that she thinks it is a great idea but that it is probably better to have the event next year since there is an immense learning curve this year and people have expressed being zoomed out. She suggested having the event in January. She stated that at Castelar the administration distributed 500 devices with the help of FACES and that families are just starting to learn how to use it and so it would be better to do it next year. She stated that although families do need that support, right now the families in our community need support with home and food security, i.e. FACES NPG.

Eugene Moy stated that it would be worthwhile to find out if other elementary schools (Ann St, Solano Canyon, Albion – not sure if that is within our District) had a similar program like Castelar. Eugene Moy stated that if we had a meeting next year we can plan it as a needs assessment so that people in the community can provide their input and it will help to find out who the Stakeholders are. Eugene Moy suggested reaching out to the parent/teacher organizations at each school since they should have an understanding of what the needs are and we can then try to carry some of these through the Neighborhood Council's budget. Eugene Moy stated that he has been listening to the Neighborhood Council meetings and have noticed how challenging it has been. Eugene Moy stated that this Committee can create some goals related to education, which is really important in this community, and can help the Neighborhood Council focus. Eugene Moy stated that we could start with some small efforts and hope for some small successes and with those small successes we could build on it and it will hopefully unify the board. Eugene Moy believes that we are going in the right path and that we need to get more people involved in the dialogue and have some listening sessions.

Vote on Motion: N/A

6 — New Business

6.1 Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of FACES' (Friends and Alumni of Castelar Elementary School) Neighborhood Purposes Grant of \$5,000 for the CASTELAR CARES: Food Assistance Project.

Motion: Approve the FACES' Neighborhood Purpose Grant for \$5,000 for the CASTELAR Food Assistance Project. (Miho Murai motioned; Valerie Hanley seconded)

Amended Motion: Approve the FACES' Neighborhood Purpose Grant up to \$5,000 for the CASTELAR Food Assistance Project. (Miho Murai motioned; Valerie Hanley agreed to the modification)

Committee Discussion: Miho Murai stated that FACES submitted an NPG and that she will be giving the floor to Thy to discuss the NPG. Miho Murai stated that she has requested the FACES' NPG to be placed on the agenda and hopes that it will be placed on the agenda. Miho Murai stated that the Chair decides the agenda but that she has requested it to be placed on the agenda for several months. Miho Murai stated that she put this on the agenda so that this Committee could vote on it and submit its recommendation to the board and hopes that the board will put it on the agenda at the November board meeting. Miho Murai stated that the NPG is asking for \$5,000 but the budget right now only has \$1,500 allocated for NPGs. Miho Murai stated that not only has she requested the FACES' NPG to be added to the agenda but she has also requested \$5,000 to be moved from the Office Expenditures to the NPG. She stated that both of these things have to happen, otherwise the NPG will only be approved for \$1,500. Phyllis Ling wanted to know how many gift cards each

family gets and how long it would last, trying to get an idea of how the distribution would go. Miho Murai asked how much has been raised so far and how did they get those funds. Phyllis Ling thinks that to be safe, even though she is not sure if it is necessary, since it seems that FACES has a relationship with Tony Quon, a board member, he should be declared as a potential conflict of interest and have the City Attorney's office look at it. Phyllis Ling stated that if we do not do that and if there is a conflict of interest, they will not fund it and will reject the NPG. Miho Murai asked why Phyllis Ling believes that Tony Quon has a conflict of interest and Phyllis Ling stated it is because she believes Tony Quon owns the Grand Star Jazz Club even if he was not benefitting from it. Miho Murai stated that she does not believe that what FACES does outside of this Castelar CARES program would affect this particular NPG since it is not related to Grand Star. Miho Murai stated that if Tony Quon was a board member of FACES then there could be a potential conflict of interest. Miho Murai stated that she believes Tony Quon may have been an alumni of Castelar but that would not be a conflict of interest. Miho Murai stated that he is listed on the motion to approve the NPG but that it is probably not necessary to have a written motion submitted with the NPG. Miho Murai stated that it is up to Tony to decide if he has a potential conflict of interest but that is not an issue today. Miho Murai suggested perhaps there should be two motions, one for \$1,500 and another for \$5,000, since there is only \$1,500 allocated for NPGs right now. Phyllis Ling suggested to state "up to \$5,000." Miho Murai suggested to Thy Mai to call the Chair and asked to be placed on the agenda. Phyllis Ling stated that she does not believe his number is public and suggested that Thy email Mei Lau, the Vice Chair, and ask her to get the message to the Chair and to also email the administrative assistant, Sarahi and the general board email and she will forward it to them. Miho Murai also suggested that Thy Mai contact Tony Quon and see if he could ask the Chair to put it on the agenda.

Public Comment: Thy Mai stated that this year FACES had to pivot how they support the school. Originally FACES was created to help ensure that there was equitable access to music education and they support ETM. They come and give weekly music classes and enable students to learn a music instrument (recorder, violin) by 3rd grade. This year, with Covid, the new principal, Principal Luu, asked if they could support the community better since 80% of the families are at poverty level and 50% qualify for free meals or discounted meals at school. At their school orientation, it was a prominent question of how they could aid in food assistance. Their school campus is not open right now and the closest school that provides food assistance is in Lincoln Heights but it is challenging because not everyone in the Chinatown community has access to transportation. Also, this past summer the last official grocery store in the community has shuttered and access to food has been difficult. FACES did their first round of Castelar CARES food assistance and they were able to raise \$6,100 and it was very well received by the community. They gave the money to the school to determine who to give it to since they do not know who are in need for assistance (privacy issue). They picked places where families could actually go to and they bought food cards in increments of \$25. Since the holiday season is soon, they are also going to try the go funding route. The principal heard about this from Micheltorena E.S. in Silver Lake. They were able to raise \$10,000 very quickly with the help of their Neighborhood Council. Thy Mai hopes that they are able to get the same level of support since it does not look like there will not be any stimulus plan. They are trying their best to locate the families and provide assistance beyond a computer. She is astonished of how quickly the needs of the families came to this in just a few months but understands since there is a high level of poverty in this area.

In response to Phyllis Ling's question regarding distribution, Thy Mai stated that the Principal first determines who is home insecure and the amount is based upon how many children/family members there are. They really leave it to the discretion of the school to protect the privacy of the families. They have announced it at the FACES meeting and let the family know to reach out the office. She thinks it has probably lasted a month and a half or so. They picked the stores that were affordable, like Super King, and a couple of local vendors (using hand-made gift certificates) so that they can also help put the money back in the community.

In regards to Miho Murai's question regarding how much has been raised so far, Thy Mai stated that about \$6,100 has been raised through a generous donation from a supporter of FACES (\$5,000) and then the rest was raised from their own families donating to Paypal and Ben of K Neighbor (sp?) spoke about it on the radio. Thy Mai stated that FACES also provided 500 bags of school supplies even though their mission is to support Education through Music (\$30,000 for the year) and that they have overextended themselves since they still need to pay for the music instruction. FACES have been exploring other grants to cover that and they have been mindful of who they approach for what; NPG for food and bigger grants for the music. Before Covid,

10% of the funding used to be at the school through a fish bowl and they also had monthly punk rock benefit shows for the kids at the Grand Star, which cannot be done right now.

In response to whether Tony has a conflict of interest, Thy Mai stated that he lets them use the space but that he does not have any monetary gains. Thy Mai stated that she believes that he is on their form since she thought that when they filled out the form that there had to be a board member listed.

In response to Tony being listed on the motion, Thy Mai stated that they were getting guidance from another NC which is why they did it that way and they also received guidance from Tony on how to submit it. Thy Mai stated that is how far Tony's involvement with the NPG was.

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (3-Yes). **MOTION PASSED.**

7 — Schools' Reports & Announcements

None of the representatives of the schools were present at the meeting.

8 — Chinatown Public Library Report & Announcements

Miho Murai reported that the Chinatown Public Library is still closed to the public but books can be checked out online.

Library representative was not present at the meeting.

9 — Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Phyllis Ling announced that she heard on the radio today that schools (LAUSD) may be used to distribute the Covid vaccines once it becomes available.

10 — Requests and Motions for Future Agenda Items

None

11 — Adjournment

Motion: Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Miho Murai motioned; seconded by Phyllis Ling)

Vote on Motion: Unanimous (3-Yes). **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. Outreach Committee will start at 7:15 pm on a different zoom webinar.

Committee Members

Miho Murai (Chair)

At Large
Representative

Phyllis Ling

Solano Canyon
Residential Representative

Valerie Hanley

El Pueblo
Non-Profit Representative

Vacant

Stakeholder

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