

# HCNNC

## HISTORIC CULTURAL NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

CHINATOWN • EL PUEBLO • SOLANO CANYON • VICTOR HEIGHTS



Monday, September 23, 2024

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES – Approved 10-22-2024

通用董事會會議 · Reunión de la Junta

Meeting In-person

Chinatown Branch Library

639 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Supporting Documents for meeting are at <https://bit.ly/HCNNC-09-23-2024-Bd-Docs>.

### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Phyllis Ling at 5:05 pm. Cantonese interpreters were present. Roll call taken by Secretary Miho Murai. There was quorum with 15 members present and 2 members absent.

**Present during roll call:** Jen Seto, Miho Murai, Katelyn Kim, Xochitl Manzanilla, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Edward Flores, Paul Hanley, Valerie Hanley, Daniel Reza, Bill Chin, Patrick Chen, Shirley Oaks, Phyllis Ling

**Absent:** Huiling Cai, Mei Wah Lau

**Public:** About 28 members, including Jose Galdamez (DONE) and Eunisses Hernandez and her staff

### 2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (Up to 2 minutes max per speaker)

No Public Comment

**3. Consent Calendar** (Note: A consent calendar is a board meeting practice that groups routine business into one agenda item. The consent calendar can be approved in one action, rather than filing motions on each item separately. A consent calendar moves routine items along quickly so that the board has time for discussing more important issues. If a member disagrees with the consent calendar item or wants to move it to the regular agenda, the member would request that the item be pulled from the consent calendar. The chair would ask if the members are in favor of approving the consent calendar minus the pulled item.)

**3.1.** Discussion and possible action to approve the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Historic Cultural North NC Regular Board Meeting of [August 26, 2024](#).

**3.2.** Discussion and possible action to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report ([MER](#)) for August 2024.

Supporting documents may be viewed at [www.HCNNC.org](http://www.HCNNC.org) or at the Chinatown Library at 639 N Hill St, Los Angeles, 90012, in the "HCNNC" folder on the shelf behind the reference desk.

Valerie Hanley made a motion to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Xochitl Manzanilla. Yes: Jen Seto, Miho Murai, Xochitl Manzanilla, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Edward Flores, Paul Hanley, Valerie Hanley, Daniel Reza, Bill Chin, Patrick Chen, Shirley Oaks, Phyllis Ling; No: None; Abstain: None; Ineligible – Katelyn Kim; **MOTION PASSED**

#### 4. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

4.1.Public Safety - None

4.2.City Council and Mayor's Representatives

##### 4.2.1.Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez (Council District 1) to

**attend the meeting and provide updates.** Possible updates on the Chinatown Apartment Fire, Hillside Villa, LAART Gondola/Dodger Stadium traffic study, street vending, graffiti on North Broadway fence, and more. Time for Q&A.

Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez made a presentation to the Board. See presentation slides. CD 1 has 22 individual neighborhoods unlike other Districts that represent fewer neighborhoods. Since taking office in December 2022, her office has prioritized bringing high quality neighborhood services, investing in people and place, and advancing a Care-First agenda. This District sees 75 to 200 evictions per week. Discussed 311 requests, food distribution, and supporting community advocacy. She is one of the only council member that is standing against the gondola. Her office opened up the Northeast New Beginnings in January, a first of its kind interim housing that provides homes and wrap around services. Beds are filled within 3 days. CD1 is the first Council District in LA to deploy a dedicated, full-time Street Medicine team that provides unhoused constituents with critical services (first 10 months, served 1700 total visits). Musica y Poema – 11/9/24, Saturday, Figueroa between Ave 54 and Ave 60. It takes the city 7 to 10 years to fix a sidewalk. It takes over a year to fix a street light repair. Only 10% of the budget goes to Public Works. 45.6% of the budget goes to the Police and 15.2% of the budget goes to the Fire. Budget is from July 2024 to June 2025. Proposed budget is submitted to City Council in April and City Council begins review of proposed budget. Ben Cassorla represents our area.

Garrett Quon asked about assistance to an elderly tenant that was attacked. How will you make CD1 a safer place? (They have been investing on the items that prevent these types of incidents – peace ambassadors – walks the community; work with organizations in the community). How will the peace ambassador assist in this type of assault?

Miho Murai asked what the process is about changing the times of the street cleaning signs around the school to avoid drop off and pick up times. I asked if she can start a motion to address this issue. (She will

discuss this with DOT and Ben will come back with the answer. She will focus on Castelar ES)

Bill Chin asked about street lights that have been out for several months in Victor Heights. He suggested getting lights that can be mounted on LADWP poles more quickly. He pointed out that the curve near CVS is dangerous without lights because people can't see the "suicide" lane.

Daniel Reza asked about a fence that has graffiti and he has been in email communication with Ben about it. Can't they have a conversation with the landowner about this? (The fence was just painted over again recently; they have been working with Building and Safety Department.)

Patrick Chen asked if there is a department to address the rent hike in Hillside (Their legislative team is having conversations with community advocates that are working on this issue. They do not have the resource to buy the building. There is no city wide solution to this right now).

Phyllis Ling asked about an update on the Chinatown apartment fire. (The fire started at a construction site. They have been working with the community on teaching the community how to report these types of construction sites. They have helped the victims find shelter, meals, and clothing. They have been pushing for the residents to get back into the building. They put a package together to address these types of nuisance buildings, including holding property owners accountability, waiving ambulance fees.)

Valerie Hanley asked about the study about the gondola. (She said that the study is moving forward and will share the contacts that she has).

Jen Seto asked about the street vendors and stated that the residents are having a hard time getting out of the building. (She is glad that they are here to speak on this item. If you are selling food, it requires a City permit with LA County. They have been talking to vendors about how to be a good neighbor – not having a vendor so close to restaurants. The County needs to be here to hear from the small business owners. CD1 is heavily impacted by street vendors – McCarther Park, Chinatown). Bureau Street does not work on the weekends and so they have to pull money out of their budget to have the Bureau Street come out to enforce the street vending. There needs to be a policy change with Bureau Street so that they work on the weekends. (She agrees. El Pueblo is in an area that has a huge discretionary fund (Kevin de Leon). They were pushing for more DOT positions but they got denied. Street vending is a priority for them and education is key).

Xochitl Manzanilla represents William Mead and they are divided. They have a new RAC committee and she hopes that they will unite the

community. She was elected to be on the HARAC board for the William Mead community. They have problems with the parking on the weekends. Ben did a good job with the signs but people take the signs down. (They are having conversations with the Thai Market. They were recently cited by the Department of Building Services and owner needs to stop until they get the appropriate permits. They are ready with the crosswalks but they are waiting for the State Park to give them the landing.)

Public Comment – Joseph Amaral - tenant from Metro housing – received an 8.8% rent increase; it is a hardship for the tenants because many are seniors and are on fixed budget; basing increase on AMI and not on the tenants' actual budget is a problem; Biden wants to cap housing to 5% increase; dealing with the landlord is a slow process; lighting on the Alpine Street – wants to thank her for fixing this problem

Public Comment – Gary Ochoa – applauds her presentation and her opposition against Gondola; however, there has been teams surveying the land; removed the Metro bus stop on College for not going along with the gondola project (line 76) (She will get some clarity on what happened about the bus stop and get an update; needs to keep an eye open because there are several agencies that are moving on with the gondola project; need to keep the community involved)

Public Comment – Stop the Gondola had a town hall meeting and the sentiment is strongly opposed to the gondola project. They look forward to working with her against this project. (She agrees).

Public Comment – King Cheung – people from Metro are hurting because of the 8% rent hike and last year it was a 10% rent hike; they would like her help (She does not have any updates on next steps; tried to move forward on a 0% rent increase but City Council members did not support it.) He asked whether she can send a letter to the landlord to decrease the rent increase and they will be doing demonstrations against this (They will submit a letter; Ben has been in conversations with the Metro tenants.)

#### **4.3. Other Area Representatives - None**

**4.4. Government Departments/Agencies, including Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – Jose Galdamez with DONE – 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday, Neighborhood Congress, 9/28/24 at City Hall; if you want to be featured as a board member for Hispanic Heritage month, let him know**

## **5. Liaison Reports**

Dan: LA Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANC) meeting - community enrichment committee motion - require youth seats on all NC Boards. Motion would also do a study on Board member term limits (Coalition is against it). Council motion on athletic fields - synthetic turfs health impacts.

## 6. Officer's Reports

### 6.1. Chair's Report

Phyllis Ling reported that the library will be closed for upcoming elections (October). We will either need to reschedule the meeting or find a new place. Complaints from residents near Orsini Apartments about large food vending trucks that are loud at night.

No public comments.

### 6.2. Secretary's Report - Report on board member attendance.

Secretary Miho Murai reported on board member attendance. As of today, the following absences have been reported: Jen Seto (1), Garrett Quon (2), Xochitl Manzanilla (1), Huiling Cai (4 - 11/27/23, 1/22/24, 8/26/24, 9/23/24), Daniel Reza (1), Phyllis Ling (1), Mei Wah Lau (1), and Wing Ho (1). This only includes absences from regular meetings since September 2023 and does not include absences from special meetings.

Miho Murai stated that we need to include the possible removal of Huiling Cai as a board member for the next board meeting since she has 4 absences per our by-laws.

No public comment.

### 6.3. Treasurer's Report - Report on HCNNC's budget.

Presentation on MER as of August 2024

## 7. Representative from Ciclavia will share more information about Ciclavia Heart of LA, which is on Sunday October 13, 2024 from 9am to 4pm. 7.5 miles of streets in Echo Park, Downtown, Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Arts District, and Boyle Heights will be closed to cars that day and open to the community. Street closures are from 7am to 6pm.

Sunday October 13, 9am-4pm Heart of LA route. Chinatown, Echo Park, Downtown LA, Little Tokyo, Arts District, Boyle Heights. Street Closures from 6am to 7pm of that day. Activities and services available, open to everyone.

Bill: Question about where LADBS booth will be.

Phyllis: We won't have a booth, not enough volunteers from the Board

## 8. Update and discussion on a draft Request for Action and/or community impact statement (CIS) on street/sidewalk vending and enforcement of street/sidewalk vending rules and regulations within HCNNC areas.

- a. Charlie: The situation is getting out of hand and want the Board to make a statement to City officials and agencies. Quote and quote the City is hand tied but let's see what they can enforce in terms of the laws that we have. Wong Family Association is here today who are affected by the situation.

- b. Phyllis: A draft CIS has been started with information gathered from the previous Board meeting and has been uploaded to the Google Drive. Will be meeting with SEACA and other stakeholders.
- c. Miho: The street vendors association should be contacted - make sure that all voices are represented at the Board meeting.
- d. Dan: The street vendors issue is an octopus - it's an enforcement issue. How many street vendors in Chinatown have a permit? We don't know because there's no enforcement.
- e. Phyllis: Encourage all board members look at the draft.
- f. Garrett: Closure of DS Night Market concerns me. The smell on Broadway is terrible. As a business owner who needs a permit, it offends me that street vendors without a permit can vend while I have to pay thousands of dollars to run my business.
- g. Ne Hong Hom: They put a lot of merchandise in front of the building and it's hard to walk through. I spoke to the vendors and they said it's hard to sell if they don't put merchandise on the sidewalk. Contentious issue. Suggest that people should team up to enforce it.
- h. Charlie: Enforcement is the government's job, private citizens cannot enforce street vending policies.
- i. Albert Wong: Sent letter to the Neighborhood Council. On the way over to this Board meeting, a vendor was set up and there was only room for one person to walk past. On the 700 block of Broadway, vendors have wares pushed out on the sidewalk, and an odd number of vendors that makes it difficult to navigate.
- j. Joe Wong: President of the Wong Family Association. They never pay the meter. Block the driveway.
- k. Phyllis: Wing is coordinating the draft letter - Board members to reach out to him to add things to the draft.
- l. Wing: Noting the three different categories of street vendors and asking Board members to be specific about which category of vendors is being referred to.

**9. Discussion and possible action to approve a [Request For Action Letter and/or Community Impact Statement](#) on the over 1/4-mile long metal fence along North Broadway between East Savoy St and Elysian Park Drive, which has become a blight and nuisance due to unmitigated graffiti and obstruction of scenic views. The fence is located on private property (1308 N Broadway, APN 5414016002), on a bluff overlooking LA State Historic Park, that is being used for storage of construction supplies and equipment.**

Daniel Reza withdraws this item. Ben Cassorla (CD1) originally thought that the City was removing the graffiti but he found out that the owner is removing the graffiti so no public funds are being used. He has already notified the inspector that the fence needs to be reinspected for graffiti. They are trying to hold construction sites accountable and that they are being good neighbors. LAPD should be contacted about this. Phyllis Ling stated that there needs to be deterrence and prevention. Valerie Hanley asked whether there can be cameras installed to identify the taggers. Ben stated that the owners are in the process of setting up cameras but there is no electricity at the site.

- 10. Discussion and possible action to appoint an Ad Hoc Election Committee.** The committee will be tasked with planning for the 2025 HCNNC election, including outreach and a candidate forum. The committee will disband after the election results are certified, on or about May 7, 2025.

Phyllis Ling asked whether any board members want to serve on the Ad Hoc Election Committee. There needs to be at least three people on the Committee. Daniel Reza is volunteering. Jen Seto is volunteering. Miho Murai is volunteering. Phyllis Ling made a motion to appoint Daniel Reza, Jen Seto, and Miho Murai to the Ad Hoc Election Committee. Motion was seconded by Patrick Chen. We do not have to have our meetings public. Verbal vote – unanimously approved.

**11. Reports from the Area Representatives:**

**11.1.Chinatown**

**11.1.1.**Discussion regarding rising crime in Chinatown – No discussion

**11.1.2.**Charlie: October 6th 10am - CCBA Double Ten celebration for Republic of China - CCBA building

**11.1.3.**Charlie: September 28th - Envision Lion's Club free eye exam and eyeglasses - Chinese school across from Alpine Park.

**11.2.El Pueblo de Los Angeles**

**11.2.1.**Valerie: October 5th - Dia De Los Muertos artwalk. Dia De Los Muertos altars and nightly activities.

**11.3.Solano Canyon**

**11.3.1.**Dan: San Coronado Church - 4th Sundays - serving breakfast

**11.4.Victor Heights**

**11.4.1.**Bill: Calling 311 for illegal bulk pickups and graffiti removal and removal of homeless encampments.

**12. Announcements**

**- Adjournment –**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>Phyllis Ling</b> Chair	<b>Wing Ho</b> 1st Vice-Chair	<b>Patrick Chen</b> 2nd Vice-Chair	<b>Miho Murai</b> Secretary	<b>Valerie Hanley</b> Treasurer
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**– NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES –**

**Mei Wah Lau** - Chinatown At-Large Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner

**Garrett Quon** - Chinatown Business Owner/ Employee

**Wing Ho** - Chinatown Non-Profit

**Xochitl Manzanilla** - Chinatown Residential

**Ne Hung Hom** - Chinatown Residential

**Edward Flores** - El Pueblo At-Large Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner

**Valerie Hanley** - El Pueblo Business Owner/ Employee

**Paul Hanley** - El Pueblo Non-Profit

**Phyllis Ling** - Solano Canyon Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner

**Huiling Cai** - Solano Canyon Residential

**Daniel Reza** - Solano Canyon Residential

**Shirley Oaks** - Victor Heights Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property-Owner

**Bill Chin** - Victor Heights Residential

**Patrick Chen** - Victor Heights Residential

**Katelyn Kim** - At-Large Youth

**Miho Murai** - At-Large

**Jen Seto** - At-Large