

HCNNC

HISTORIC CULTURAL NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

CHINATOWN • EL PUEBLO • SOLANO CANYON • VICTOR HEIGHTS



Monday, January 27, 2025

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

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES - Approved 02/24/2025

通用董事會會議 • Reunión de la Junta

In-person Meeting

Chinatown Branch Library

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

Supporting Documents for meeting are at <https://bit.ly/HCNNC-01-27-2025-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.

Present during Roll Call (15): Miho Murai, Katelyn Kim, Xochitl Manzanilla, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Mei Wah Lau, Edward Flores, Paul Hanley, Valerie Hanley, Huiling Cai, Bill Chen, Patrick Chen, Shirley Oaks, and Phyllis Ling

Arrived Later (1): Daniel Reza (5:08 p.m.)

Public: 9 people, including Jose Galdamez (DONE) and Ben Cassorla (CD 1); 15 people as of 5:51 pm

At Roll Call, we had 15 members present and 1 absent. Quorum was established.

Daniel Reza arrived. 16 board members present.

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

None

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

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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 Special Board Meeting of [November 25, 2024](#).
- 3.2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report ([MER](#)) for November 2024.
- 3.3. Discussion and possible action to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report ([MER](#)) for December 2024.

We don't have the MER for December 2024. It needs to be removed from the consent calendar. Valerie Hanley made a motion to approve the consent calendar without December MER. Seconded by Mei Wah Lau. Yes: Miho Murai, Xochitl Manzanilla, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Mei Wah Lau, Edward Flores, Paul Hanley, Valerie Hanley, Huiling Cai, Daniel Reza, Bill Chin, Patrick Chen, Shirley Oaks, and Phyllis Ling; No: None; Abstain: None; Ineligible – Katelyn Kim; **MOTION PASSED (15-0-0-1)**

4. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

- 4.1. Public Safety - None
- 4.2. City Council and Mayor's Representatives
 - 4.2.1. Gabriela Agarie is the new field deputy for Council District 1 in the HCNNC area.

Ben Cassorla – a new alcohol license came through for Mandarin Plaza (no date) and LAX-C (no date); Broadway wall graffiti – LADBS has being instructed to focus on safety issues and not the graffiti; Radio Hill letter (homeless encampments) addressed to CD1 and other agencies; Park Rangers have done multiple sweeps and are making inspections for no open flames; Park Rangers say it is a bandwidth issue and they will be meeting with Friends of the Elysian Park; strip of land adjacent to Broadway wall – they worked with property owner to clean up the trash; Wednesday City Council moratorium by those impacted by fires – rent freezes, RSO guidelines allowing more people to move in without price gouging; 1/29/25 Council Meeting

Ben will be leaving this position. Gabriela Agarie is the new field deputy for CD1. She has worked with some government agencies and non-profits; she is here to listen and respond to the Board.

- 4.2.2. New field deputy for City Council District 14 in the HCNNC area.
- 4.3. Other Area Representatives - None
- 4.4. Government Departments/Agencies, including Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Community Representative Jack Suarizlinares from LAUSD Board District Dr. Rocio's office – He wanted to introduce himself

Jose Galdamez (DONE) – changed their domain name to: neighborhoodempowerment.lacity.gov; region 6 candidate filing period ends on 2/10/25; there are candidate filing papers available in the library. Board members can only be on the board for 8 years.

5. Officer's Reports

5.1. Chair's Report

5.1.1. Announcement of Board Member resignation: Jen (Charlie) Seto.

Jen Seto resigned and so we have a vacant seat. However, since our elections are coming up, we will not be filling his seat.

5.1.2. Update on alcohol licenses at 1100 N Main Street (City Planning Cases ZA-2024-4668-CUB, ZA-2024-4663-CUB).

They didn't have the proper notice about the change in the times and so we had to withdraw our CIS.

5.2. 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: Katelyn Kim (1), Garrett Quon (1), Huiling Cai (2), Phyllis Ling (1), Mei Wah Lau (1), and Wing Ho (1). This only includes absences from regular meetings since January 27, 2024 and does not include absences from special meetings.

No public comment.

5.3. Treasurer's Report - Report on HCNNC's budget.

We don't have the December MER. The November MER states that we have a remaining balance of \$25,773.09. She will have a realistic estimate at the next meeting.

6. Committee Report: Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

Daniel stated that there is no update. Phyllis stated that we will have a candidate forum if there are candidates running. We may need to add another board member to the Election Committee since Jen resigned. Valerie reported that the candidate filing date has been extended to February 10, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the expenditure of up to \$1000 to Staples to print postcards for HCNNC election outreach. [Estimates and draft postcards here.](#)

Phyllis Ling stated that we can pick up 500 postcards on the same day but if we ordered 1,000 postcards, we would need to wait a few days. Daniel Reza suggested sending out PDFs to the Board so we can distribute them. Miho Murai asked whether we have a plan to distribute the postcards. Valerie Hanley stated that we should focus on getting “get out the vote” postcards and that we should post flyers about candidate filings. Daniel Reza stated that we should focus on voter registration outreach. Jose Galdamez (DONE) stated that DONE has a few resources and will forward them to Phyllis. Miho Murai stated that she would still like some postcards to be printed.

Miho Murai made a motion to approve expenditure of up to \$300.00 to Staples to print postcards for HCNNC election outreach; Seconded by Xochitl Manzanilla. Yes: Miho Murai, Xochitl Manzanilla, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Edward Flores, Paul Hanley, Valerie Hanley, Huiling Cai, Daniel Reza, Patrick Chen, Shirley Oaks, and Phyllis Ling; No: Mei Wah Lau, Bill Chin; Abstain: None; Ineligible – Katelyn Kim; **MOTION PASSED (13-2-0-1)**

8. Community Impact Statements

8.1. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement and request for action letter addressed to CD1 and City of LA representatives to ask the City to take action to mitigate the ongoing and constant threat of wildfires in the neighborhoods inside and adjacent to Elysian Park. [CIS/Request for Action Letter here.](#) Discussion and possible action for HCNNC to be a signatory to this letter.

Daniel Reza presented the CIS to the Board. A letter was prepared by neighbors from Elysian Park, Solano Canyon, and from the Friends of Elysian Park. They are requesting to remove all dead brush, trees, tumbleweeds, and limbs from the park immediately; close Elysian Park during Red Flag warnings; 24-hour Park Rangers Patrols; and to remove the homeless encampments immediately.

Daniel Reza made a motion to approve the CIS and request for an action letter addressed to CD1 and City of LA Representatives; seconded by Mei Wah Lau.

Miho Murai stated that I am opposed to the removal of the homeless encampments immediately. Daniel Reza stated that it is illegal for the homeless encampments to be there and they are offered services but they are refusing the services. Phyllis Ling said that she woke up once to a boom that was a fire caused by a homeless encampment. Patrick Chen wanted CD1 to talk about services being offered to the homeless encampments. Ben Cassorla (CD 1) stated that Elysian Park was closed during the Red Flag Warnings but not closed immediately. CD1 is not involved in the sweeps in the parks. He said that services are sometimes offered but it is very rarely beds or places to stay. Patrick Chen agrees with

Miho and supports more management of the park but he thinks we need to focus more on providing housing for those who are in the homeless encampments. Phyllis Ling stated that we received a few public comments that were mainly against the CIS.

Ronald, Public Comment – he supports this action and this letter; he lives at the base of Radio Hill and he frequently smells the burning of paper and plastic; he doesn't want the hill behind him to burn; he doesn't think that homeless people should be burning things

Craig Wong, Public Comment – he is glad to see this letter as it addresses some of the concerns of the people in the Elysian Park but he is not in support of the immediate removal of the homeless encampments. We need permanent housing for the unhoused. We are basically pushing them to another area. We need to put pressure on local and state government to provide permanent, safe housing.

Janie Wong, Public Comment – she echoes the same sentiment; while she supports removing the brush but she does not agree with removing the encampments; there are no beds; they are trying to keep themselves warm by creating fires; we just keep pushing the encampments around; she would like us to amend the letter and advocate for permanent long term solutions.

Jasmine, Public Comment – she comes from the Chinatown neighborhood and she woke up to the New Depot fire; there was a fire that started by her house because there was a tall tree that hit a power line; services are offered but beds are not offered; she does not think we should immediately remove the homeless encampments; some of them are our neighbors.

Jade, Public Comment – she is a resident of Chinatown; she wants to cosign what Miho and Patrick said today; she does not think we should remove the homeless encampments; if you want to protect our community, you would not be advocating for forced displacement; anyone can be displaced at any moment.

Vanessa, Public Comment – she lives in Solano Canyon in Casanova; she knows some of the people that live in the homeless encampments and they are her friends; she does not think we are afraid enough of what these fires can do.

Ray, Public Comment – he lives in Victor Heights; he is opposed to this; he does not think sweeps is an effective way to remove them; the sweeps are just pushing people around; he thinks we should demand more funding to avoid these fires and to demand affordable housing; he thinks it's crazy that people have to light fires to keep them warm.

Fernanda, Public Comment - She agrees with some parts of the letter but she is against removing the housing encampments immediately; she does not think that the homeless are being offered services.

Bill Chin – wants to ask whether the City has talked to Elysian Park and what are they doing

Ben Cassorla (CD1) stated that he has heard complaints from what was brought up in the letter. They were going to encampments to ask them to limit the fires. These services are underfunded. His boss now sits on the Budget Committee and she wants to make sure that core services are being adequately funded.

Miho Murai made a motion to strike the point of removing the homeless encampment immediately and to add provide housing solutions for the unhoused. Patrick seconded the motion.

Valerie does not think we can make an amendment to this letter. Daniel Reza agrees with Valerie. This letter was written during a stressful time. He thinks that we will need to do a different letter. Daniel Reza called for the vote. Seconded by Garrott Quon. All voted in favor of ending discussion.

Verbal vote on amendment – Yes – Patrick Chen, Miho Murai, Xochitl Manzanilla; No – Daniel Reza, Katelyn Kim, Ne Hung Hom, Garrett Quon, Wing Ho, Mei Wah Lau, Edward Flores, Valerie Hanley, Paul Hanley, Huiling Cai, Shirley Oaks; Abstain – Bill Chin, Phyllis Ling; **AMENDMENT FAILED BY 3-11-2**

Daniel Reza said that there are a lot of things that need to be changed in the letter. Daniel Reza said that he can use this letter to create a letter for action. He would like to table it because of the input of the community. No objections. This will be brought up at the next meeting with a new letter.

8.2. Discussion and possible action to approve a community impact statement in opposition to Council File #15-0989-S47. The motion asks the City Planning Department, with assistance from the City Attorney's Office, to draft an ordinance to exempt Olympics projects from CEQA, City Planning, Zoning, and other regulations. [Draft CIS here.](#)

Motion by Patrick Chen to approve the statement, seconded by Valerie Hanley.

Phyllis stated that the context of the motion at City Council is to exempt permitting and other requirements for Olympics related project. The motion would create a unit in existing department to approve projects, though there are concerns around transparency and abuse of power.

Wing stated that although transparency is an important issue, he wants us to support the intent behind the City motion to streamline the approvals process. The CIS statement is not necessary because we can speak to City Council as constituents.

Valerie thinks that the CIS is a good idea. The City motion gives the City a free hand to do whatever it wants – the City does not have a good amount of restraint. This is an open call

for anyone to do anything as long as they say its Olympic related – that’s scary and can make a problem for our neighborhoods without community input. She agrees with this CIS.

Dan stated that the issue is also the exclusion of our communities from the process by this City motion. He would want our communities to be included in process.

Ron F (Public Comment): Supports signing this letter. The City motion gives a blank check to any number of things that can run our neighborhoods. Just because the Olympics are coming to LA doesn’t mean billionaires can do what they want.

Juni W (Public Comment): Supports this CIS.

Craig W (Public Comment): Supports this CIS.

Jasmine W (Public Comment): Supports this CIS. Historically, the Olympics have harmed the communities its’ been in, leaving desolation and corruption. If the City can make exemption for Olympics, why can’t they do it for affordable housing.

Fernanda (Public Comment): Supports this CIS. Involved in Planning and Land Use and exemption from CEQA means no testing would be required. This would only allow rubber stamping and accelerate gentrification.

Voice Vote: Ayes have it, one No (Wing Ho)

Motion Approved

9. Neighborhood Purpose Grants

9.1. Discussion and possible action to approve a neighborhood purpose grant for up to \$4250 to “1866 (in Historic Solano Canyon)” to support the continuation of their popular exercise program, which has offered free, weekly exercise classes every Saturday at LA State Historic Park for the last four years. [Application here.](#)

Jesse teaches the class and would like us to support this program. They are asking for support from now until June 2025. Vanessa stated that she has been doing this class since 2020 and it has helped with her mental health. You can bring your children to the classes. It is a free resource for the community.

Valerie Hanley stated that we have \$6,000 left for NPG - \$3,000 for Victor Heights and \$3,000 for Solano Canyon.

Miho Murai asked who is currently funding this. Jesse stated that it is one class per week with two instructors. If it is raining, she uses a different venue. They need to pay for the insurance. \$150/class. It has been funded by 2021. Between 8 and 12 people attend the classes.

Valerie Hanley made a motion to amend the amount to \$3,000. Seconded by Garrett Quon.

Mei Lau left at 7:05 pm. Ne Hung Hom left at 7:08 pm.

Public Comment (Woman) – it is important to have cheap free classes in our neighborhoods
Wing Ho said that there are other funding opportunities.

Miho Murai left at 7:11 pm.

9.2. Discussion and possible action to approve a neighborhood purpose grant for up to \$5000 to “BeautifyLA” for cleanup and beautification projects in Solano Canyon and Victor Heights. [Application here.](#)

10. Discussion on a proposal for HCNNC to sponsor a CERT class at the Chinatown Library for the HCNNC board and community members to attend.

11. Reports from the Area Representatives:

11.1. Chinatown

11.2. El Pueblo de Los Angeles

11.3. Solano Canyon

11.4. Victor Heights

11.4.1. Report of cut, underground AT&T communications lines at the southwest corner of CVS at 1050 Sunset Blvd. The lines, which serve Victor Heights, have reportedly been out of service since December 2, 2024.

12. Announcements

- Adjournment –

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

OFFICERS	Phyllis Ling Chair	Wing Ho 1st Vice-Chair	Patrick Chen 2nd Vice-Chair	Miho Murai Secretary	Valerie Hanley Treasurer
– NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES –			Valerie Hanley - El Pueblo Business Owner/ Employee		
Mei Wah Lau - Chinatown At-Large Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner			Paul Hanley - El Pueblo Non-Profit		
Garrett Quon - Chinatown Business Owner/ Employee			Phyllis Ling - Solano Canyon Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner		
Wing Ho - Chinatown Non-Profit			Huiling Cai - Solano Canyon Residential		
Xochitl Manzanilla - Chinatown Residential			Daniel Reza - Solano Canyon Residential		
Ne Hung Hom - Chinatown Residential			Shirley Oaks - Victor Heights Business Owner/ Employee/ Non-Profit/ Property Owner		
Edward Flores - El Pueblo At-Large 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
Vacant Seat - At-Large