

Chinatown Business & Community Association

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2009

9:00am

Following the approval of the minutes, Chu Lan introduced Debby Morikawa from the Department of Community Services, Howard Lum, a long time businessman from Chinatown, and Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Director of the Department of Transportation as our key guest speakers for CBCA. Unfortunately, Howard and Wayne had other meetings to attend, so we could not hear from them at this time.

Debby Morikawa urged everyone present to attend the Community Informational Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Beretania Community Park located at 1290 Aala Street to address the solution to homelessness. She gave a brief synopsis of the project plans that will provide housing to single individuals, couples, and small families and persons with disabilities or special needs which might include individuals with special needs such as substance abuse, mental illness or victims of domestic violence. The location selected for this project is located at 1330 River Street and it was selected because it is a property already owned by the City & County. The project is being introduced after successful studies of other modules of its kind across the nation. It is offering people who are homeless a way to come in off the streets. It is designed to help the homeless successfully transition back into the community by providing affordable housing, a safe supportive environment that will include 24-hour staffing and security. Everyone received a blue flyer.

Ernie is concerned about people being dumped in the neighborhood. Cecilia is concerned that this might only be another crime magnet for covert activities. Debby assured all of us that this is a workable project. Studies of this type have a proven record of its success. The project has been approved by the downtown Neighborhood Board.

RFP Concept ~ students developed ~ end result:

1. Self sufficient
2. 24 hour security staff
3. Permanent residence
4. Ungated
5. Program allows monitoring

Dolores from our Citizens Patrol encourages comments on the homelessness in Chinatown. Howard would like to know how many people from Chinatown will be accepted and what about the victims of domestic violence? Susan from Safe Haven said, "The problem will not be contained just because there is a permanent residence." "No one in Chinatown has been informed about this public program." Debby assured everyone that she would try to get flyers out to everyone in Chinatown. Many people are pushed into Chinatown because of circumstances. Barbara Hao suggests we work together with HPD. Cecilia Chang from the Prosecutor's Office Problem Solve Department cited these possibilities to consider:

- Inadvertent results cultivating crime from good intentions
- Will it attract substance abuse problems?
- Certain locations become crime magnates
- Were the residents consulted?

- **Community planning issues**
 - The homeless usually end up as the victims
 - The homeless end up as drug runners
 - The homeless do not have anywhere to go
 - Place the homeless in a monitored situation?
 - Effective programs
 - Intervention
 - Intensive follow up
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Howard Lum cited the cultural aspects of Chinatown's unique heritage. There are temples, churches, schools, and marshall art centers throughout Chinatown. Some of the temples are at least 120 years old. Maunakea Street is the Heart and Spirit of Chinatown and we should work together to preserve the spirit of Chinatown's community bringing together Chinatown's best.

On Tuesday night Save Haven will be conducting a meeting on the corner of Vineyard and River Streets. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

River Street Apartments, a 95 unit facility study is a place where people have a managed facility. There are financial issues, maintenance issues, mental health issues and funding resource issues. It is a service driven program. It is a state driven program ~ critical for two years. State funding is unknown. Decision making authority approved by RFP. Time frame? Award contract.

Richard Fikani of HPD would like to know why the location at River Street was chosen as the site for the suggested project to house the homeless. "Because the land for the proposed structure is already owned by the City," cited Debby Morikawa. Providers have projects at Kawailoa and other areas, but people don't have a place to leave their personal belongings, so people refuse to go there.

Who will implement the 10.6 mil to the City? It will come out of the affordable housing fund ~ debt free. The provider will work together with the city to generate more funds. This program has been three years in the making with lots of planning behind it.

Rod Tam suggests the conditioning involved by character types ~ working together to make this project work. More money to be allotted for this project. Working relationships bringing all the agents together.

Proposed improvements for traffic and parking:

- **King and Maunakea Streets**
- **Hazardous crosswalk between Cindy's Lei Stand and the Chinatown Municipal parking lot.**
- **No loading zone where the hazardous crosswalk is**
- **North King, Kekaulike and Maunakea ~ improve area crosswalks with sound**
- **Smith Street ~ no loading ~ no parking**
- **Maunakea Market ~ no loading offsite for big vehicles**
- **Flashing lights and visual sound**
- **Remove old red zones placed there for the buses**
- **Provide parking in place of the red zones**

- Provide loading on all streets
- Restore Chinatown to its cultural heritage

Because of police presence on River and Kukui Streets, drugs have been reduced. Parking structures locations are used by the offenders and the victims. What is the magnate? Long term business mall. Address the safety issues. Proper lighting. Put security in place. We need community input.

Citations for jaywalking increased. CBCA partnering with Major Saito, educating the community in three languages about jaywalking. CBCA is also slated to educate shop owners per parking and loading.

Johnny Ng from the Crime Committee is focusing on Kekaulike Mall:

- Sanitation and Health
- Using green theme to create a compost
- Address the rat issue
- Provide public restrooms for visitors
- Utilize the mayor's clean team
- Find space to install public restrooms
- Utilize Chinatown as an economic engine for arts & culture
- Plan for placement of restroom facility

Steve Lohse a resident of Chinatown is a futuristic planner for the expansion of Chinatown. The first level utilizing First Friday as a vehicle to reach out to connect with Chinatown and to generate publicity for Chinatown. The second level will be to revitalize the markets with the arts district. Economics at both ends at the comprehensive and coherent level. Right now we have economics and homelessness on the other side of the spectrum.

Ann Ching will offer her input to Chinatown's economy at a later meeting.

Susan Lohse ~ existing cultural arts program ~ walking tours through Chinatown's business residents ~ present Chinatown's civic pride, community pride, its history, culture, crafts and its purpose in making decisions to form a better community for all.

Rod Tam reminds us to work within the boundaries of Chinatown from Nuuanu Avenue to River Street and from Vineyard to Nimitz Highway. Downtown Fort Street Mall works within these boundaries. Plans, marketing and sanitation.

Immediate event ~ block party to take place on June 20, 2009. Maunakea Street will be blocked off for this event to Rediscover the Cultural Heritage of Chinatown. Ann Chung disclosed another media vehicle attraction ~ Radio 88 ~ a 24 hour radio service from Mainland China to be introduced at this event.

The next meeting will be held at Zippy's Vineyard Street location at 9:00 am. In the meantime you may want to think about the events you would like to see and introduce them at the next meeting.

Twenty-two people from the Citizen's Patrol Group are scheduled to march tonight from River Street and Beretania ~ gambling house.

Celebrate citizens patrol during the first week of August. The dates to be determined. Inviting all patrols throughout the island. Sure providers ~ HPD.

New Business:

Statistics to be presented by Richard Fikani of HPD.

Letters to the editor: Mongoose syndrome ~ HPD not there at night.

Nominate Susan and Dolores to the Board of Directors.

Newsletter and bullet points ~ Al will be pooling everything together.

Chinese in Hawaii Calendar from Tom.

Chinatown clean team to report to CBCA per sanitary conditions.

CBCA member sticker created by Tom. Active member sticker created by Tom.

Meeting concluded at 10:47am

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Kaonohi