

5-29-09

## **CBCA Minutes**

### Attendees:

Chu Lan, Dolores Mollring, Barbara Hao, Councilman Rod Tam, Johnny Ng, Al Canopin, Thomas Sum, Joseph Young, Ernie Loo, Manny Sanchez, Michael Beverford, Susan Lebo, Steve Lohse, Tana Kekina-Cabaniero, Cecelia Chang, Marsha Joyner, Sandra Pohl, Karl Kao, John Chang.

### Agenda:

Community Prosecuting - Cecelia Chang & Tana Kekina-Cabeniero  
Ms. Chang spoke about how their guiding concept for their office and what they do, as well as what we as an organization needs to think about is, "What is our Mission?" Her office's mission is, "Improving the quality of life in the community." In order to identify her/your mission, vision, plans, it is important to ask questions and to develop a "big picture" plan. It is important to ask, "is the mission family oriented?" "is it healthy? balanced? community-oriented?" It is important to examine the concept of what does it mean to be "collaborative"? It involves including all the stakeholders, it needs to be driven by the stakeholders, rather than having them simply provide a "stamp of approval" on something. It needs to be considered with respect to community activation and accountability. It is also important to think about what are your/our standards? What are your/our "expectations" for quality of life? We need to be thinking about raising the bar, setting higher standards, sending the message that crime, etc., won't be tolerated in our community.

Ms. Chang also briefly provided an overview of the history of the Weed-N-Seed program, particularly with respect to our community being the Chinatown Special District.

### Community Development - Debbie Morikawa

Ms. Morikawa unable to attend. She was scheduled to speak about the River Street Apartments project and about parking and crosswalk issues. She will be placed on next week's agenda.

### Jay-Walking Campaign - Chu Lan, Major C. Saito, Chinatown Station

Ms. Chu Lan led the discussion. The current target date is June 27, 2009. Among the items mentioned were plans to distribute informational brochures, to be in English, Chinese, and Vietnamese. She will confirm with the police about getting 500-1000 brochures for distribution. CBCA will take on the task of getting the Chinese and Vietnamese done. The plans include a rally, which we the CBCA needs to coordinate with Major

Saito. The campaign will also involve working with the merchants regarding related issues such as "courteous parking." Parking, particularly for loading and unloading is a serious concern, as is the fact that some individuals are abusing the loading zones by parking there long term with permits.

#### Block Party -Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan led the discussion. The agenda indicates a current target date of August 29, 2009? The theme committee consists of Ann Chung, Gifford Chang, and Chu Lan. We are following up on our discussions with the City at last week's meeting. We plan are considering submitting a grant application for \$10,000 to organize a cultural event in Chinatown. We have to decide this ASAP as the application must be submitted and approved if the money is to be encumbered in FY2009 (i.e., before June 30, 2009) for use in FY2010 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). Our current discussion is to organize a cultural event that highlights Chinatown cultural and spiritual history and involves various cultural groups, venders, &tc.

6/5/09

### **CBCA Minutes**

#### Attendees:

Chu Lan, Spencer Anderson, Cohla Anderson, John Chang, Dolores Mollring, Barbara Hao, Al Canopin Jr., Joe Leoni Jr., Mike Beverford, Debbie Kim Morikawa, Howard Lum, Thomas Sum, Johnny Ng, Sandra Pohl, Steve Lohse, Susan Lebo, Roland Louie, Ed Korybski, Jun Yang, Richard Fikani & other HPD officers.

#### Agenda:

#### Community Prosecuting - Cecelia Chang & Tana Kekina-Cabeniero, part 2 of 3

Ms. Chang presented an overview of the Weed-N-Seed program, including a detailed handout containing information about the mission and vision, history, and maps showing the areas included in the several targeted locations. She discussed the mission and vision, as well as implementation strategies and objectives. Ms. Chang emphasized that it is a very successful program because it truly is a multi-collaborative program involving committed support from the City & County, State, and Federal agencies, personnel, and funding. The basic objective of the program is to "weed out crime in high crime areas." For a community or neighborhood to receive a weed-n-seed program it must meet Federal standards. Prime communities are those with high crime, high unemployment, disadvantaged and under-educated populations, &tc. Our community is part of the

Chinatown-Palama-Kalihi Weed-n-Seed project. The program is usually implemented in a community as a 5-year strategy. It has been in our community longer and has been expanded because of the needs. The program is built on 5 primary needs (see handout): fastrack, remove, heighten probation, weed-n-seed court, and drug court expansion. The program here is unique and successful because of its prosecution strategy that involves collaboration between the prosecutor's office and the police; its "zero tolerance" approach, and primary emphasis on inter-agency collaboration.

#### Weed-N-Seed Update - Officer Anderson

Officer Anderson provided an update on their activities in Chinatown. He indicated that prosecution stings are occurring monthly, they are targeting a variety of activities, including massage parlors, gambling, and drugs, as well as working on problems such as truancy. He provided statistics for Sector 1, which includes Chinatown. For the month of April 2009, these statistics are as follows:

#### Arrests

sex offenses (8), robbery (6), burglary (7), theft (44), UNV (breaking into vehicles, 13), vehicle theft (2), assault (15), harassment (7), drug (25), liquor DUI (10), liquor laws (71, includes drinking in the parks), promoting property damage (including graffiti, 11)

#### Other Activities

calls for service (including noise & parking complaints, 89), argument calls (87), parking citations (87), towed vehicles (150)

Discussion - Chu Lan led the questions & answers discussion. She/CBCA are grateful for the support we have received from the police. Their activities in recent weeks have done a lot to reduce people's fears and many have returned to Chinatown to shop. There is still concern about what appears to be a lack of sensitivity in dealing with jay walking. She mentioned a recent incident in which an elderly woman, non-native English speaker, was handcuffed. There continues to be concern about the lack of parking, particularly by Maunakea Market. The elderly and individuals with disabilities don't have any place to park or even to get in and out of vehicles and, again there is concern about a lack of sensitivity concerning this problem. There continues to be a need to address the lack of loading and unloading space for merchants. No one wants to break the law, but people need to be able to load and unload.

Officer Anderson, and later Major Saito, both provided feedback about when officers have authority to use discretion and when they don't. This led into a broader discussion of why we are planning a jay walking campaign. Our primary focus is on education, educating people about why they shouldn't jay walk - we care about their safety. We also want to improve community-police relations.

#### Jay-walking Campaign - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan led the discussion. We are still looking at July 11, 2009 for our jay-walking campaign. It will include an emphasis on pedestrian safety, along with information about citations, interpretation of the law, amount of citations (\$130 for jay walking); will

include multi-lingual brochures. It was mentioned that people also need to be educated that right turn or no right turns on red are not being complied with in several places. There was additional discussion about parking and loading/unloading problems in Chinatown. The King Street Fish Market area is a prime example of where the loading zone is being abused. Some people with stickers are using this area as a parking zone and because they have these city-issued stickers they are legally parked although the area is supposed to be a loading zone. Part of the problem is the zone doesn't have a sign saying "15 minute loading only," CBCA wants to work with Debbie Morikawa's office on this. Also discussed having the tires marked so it is possible to see who is abusing this loading zone.

Mr. Louie indicated he'd like to see the parking meters put back on Pauahi Street. Ms. Chang responded immediately, no. She emphasized that we need to focus on making decisions aimed at long-term solutions.

#### Updates from Debbie Morikawa's Office - Ms. Morikawa

Ms. Morikawa was scheduled to discuss the River Apartments project and Parking & Crosswalks. With respect to the River Street Apartments, she indicated that her office will be responding to all the questions submitted via posting on the internet; visit their site. No additional information on this subject at this time. She moved to the topic of Parking & Crosswalks. Ms. Morikawa said she had passed on the CBCA list of recommendations to Wayne Yoshioka, re: loading zones, parking, lighting, cameras, &tc. He will get back with CBCA on this matter. She requested that CBCA prioritize the items on the list. Her point was, are the items listed in the order CBCA wants them addressed? Need to follow up on this. Ms. Morikawa indicated that some of the things on the list are doable but she stressed that partnerships were going to need to be forged in order to make them happen, particularly with respect to getting funding. Her office doesn't have funds! She asked for CBCA to prioritize, then to look at setting up a future meeting to discuss the priority issues more. She would also like feedback from the Chinatown Neighborhood Board to know that all these groups are in agreement about needs & priorities. She also said CBCA needs to work with both Neighborhood Boards 13 and 15. The group spoke up and identified CBCA members in attending this meeting who are representatives of Boards 13 and 15.

#### Community Comment on River Street Apartments project - Mr. Chang

Mr. Chang thanked the group for the opportunity to provide comment on the project. He said he wanted to convey some of the opinions and concerns of the community tongs and shrines. They understand and believe that there is a need and the idea of providing such housing is a worthy program, but they have concerns they'd like to convey and to have addressed. Their philosophy is that change is not necessarily in and of itself good. That we need to make sure that change involves making things better. Will this project make things better for the whole of Chinatown and the people who live, work, and visit here, will it help the spiritual heart of the community? We don't want to see the project create more or bigger problems for the community. We don't think the site is the right location for the project, particularly because of its proximity to the Chinese school, to several of the shrines, &tc. Should the City proceed with this project? A big concern in being able to answer this question is community safety. The community needs to feel that their

safety concerns are being considered and will be adequately addressed. We want the project, if it goes forward, to fit into the character of the neighborhood. How is this going to be accomplished? We want the City to meet with all the stakeholders to have real dialogue about community concerns.

The short discussion afterwards again emphasized that CBCA has not yet, and is not yet ready to take a stance on the project. We want more discussion. There is general agreement that Housing First is a good concept, and that we want to take care of our vulnerable population, but we also want to ensure that the community has had the opportunity as stakeholders to fully participate in the process, rather than just being asked to put a stamp of approval. Also we want to really address community concerns about whether this is the right location in Chinatown, are there more suitable sites, how does this project fit into a bigger, long-term plan for Chinatown, how does it fit into community interests in creating a River Walk, &tc. It was expressed that we need possibly to create a task force to represent the community, so we can have input into the planning & designing of the building. We need to deal with public safety issues, but we also need to know more about how the process will be accomplished with respect to selecting the service provider & other components of the project. What criteria are being used? We need more transparency. CBCA still wants more information so we can be sure that this is the right approach, the right project, the right location, &tc.

Cecelia addressed the issue of safety briefly, stating that the River Street Apartments project is in the Weed-n-Seed site. This means that whatever activities the residents engage in outside their apartments, they will be held to the same level of accountability as everyone else within the area. No exemptions will be made to residents with respect to the Weed-N-Seed designation of the area & its zero tolerance policies.

#### "National Night Out" - Major Saito

Major Saito led the discussion. This event is currently planned for the first week of August, date still to be determined. The officers of Districts 1 through 8 will have their first meeting on this on June 16, 2009. It will be held in Chinatown and focus on finding out which districts want to participate, how they will participate, &tc. It is basically an informational and planning meeting.

#### Jay-walking - Cecelia & Chu Lan

In an open discussion concerning jay walking, the comment was raised that Hotel Street is a pedestrian mall, or at least that it was intended to be. Various members were unsure that this was actually the case. Al was asked to look into this. There was general concern raised about how jay walking was being handled in Chinatown, in the Fort Street mall area, and at other specific crossings. Again, it was mentioned that CBCA had submitted a request to DOT for a "razzle-dazzle" type crossing on Hotel Street.

#### FACE - Jun Yang

Ms. Chu Lan introduced Jun Yang who is with FACE. He attended to learn more about CBCA and possible collaborations regarding housing issues in Chinatown. FACE has not yet taken a stance on the River Street Apartment project.

Jay-walking Campaign - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan reported that the campaign is scheduled for July 11, 15, and 18, 2009. It will involve several types of activities, including a press conference at which Mayor Hanneman will do the kick off. Also planned are a parade, teams handing out information brochures, and . . . Four teams had already been decided, but after discussion, two more were added. Team 5 will be at the corner of Pauahi & River Streets. Team 6 will be at the corner of Maunakea & Hotel. Cecelia said she and Sandi will assist with the posters. Chu Lan said she would help with getting text in Chinese and Vietnamese for the posters & fliers.

Block Party - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan said that the current plan is to hold the event at Smith & Beretania Park. Team captains have been identified (see agenda handout)

New/Old Business - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan asked Jun Yang to speak. He said that FACE works with faith-based institutions. FACE and CBCA share a common issue with respect to homelessness and he is interested in pursuing a meeting involving members of FACE and of CBCA to discuss homelessness and the River Street Apartments project.

Meeting ended. Board meeting followed.