

**NOTES FROM THE
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
1765 SUTTER STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Wermer, David Ishida, Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Robert Sakai

Meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

GEARY BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

Paul, Jon, and Karen reviewed the highlights from the January 6, 2016 meeting. It was re-confirmed that the Webster Street and Steiner Street Bridges must remain and that the community would work with SF County Transit Authority (SFCTA) and to try and maintain the objective of the BRT.

Paul agreed that he would send an e-mail stating this position encouraging the SFCTA to work on proposals that would retain the bridges for the Wednesday, February 3, 2016 meeting at the JACL HQ.

Further discussion focused on organizing the various groups, such as the parents at Rosa Parks, the senior organizations (Kimochi, Inc. Seniors on the Hill, the Sequoias, etc.) Nihonmachi Little Friends, YMCA-Buchanan Branch, and others to demonstrate to the SFCTA and elected officials that the bridges are needed.

It was suggested that the Committee look into the original intent of the bridge and its possible historic significance.

Richard Hashimoto agreed to reach out to his contact who worked with the designer of the Japan Culture Center Malls to see if might be able to provide information.

It was also suggested that the Committee reach out to Shirley Wysinger who was the director of the SF Redevelopment Agency (RDA) during the construction of the Japan Cultural Center Malls may have some information about the bridges.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Paul reported that Glynis Nakahara contacted the Planning Department about the draft design guidelines that the Land Use Committee has prepared and sought their comments. She was informed that the department is issuing draft urban design guidelines on January 21, 2016 and deferred any review or comments on the draft design guidelines.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM

Paul reported that the Affordable Housing Bonus Program being proposed by the Planning Commission would not likely to impact Japantown with the exception of the Japan Center Malls and Toraya as the height bonuses of possibly two or three additional floors for setting aside 30% or 100% of the units for low-income individuals would probably not be feasible on smaller properties

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend that the JTF take no official position on this item.

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS RE FACE SHOP CUA - HEARING FEBRUARY 25

The Committee reviewed and approved for Board action a draft letter of support for the Face Shop Formula Retail Conditional Use Authorization (CUA). The Japantown Merchants Association (JMA) is also supporting the Face Shop CUA application.

NEW BUSINESS

Criteria for JTF letters of Support

Paul would like to assemble a draft list of criteria for requests to the JTF for letters of support. He will ask the board members as well to send him their recommendations so there is some consistency in the rationale for sending a letter of support, neutral, or non-support.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.