

**NOTES FROM THE
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
1765 SUTTER STREET
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018**

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Clint Taura, DDS, Judy Hamaguchi

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Steve Nakajo, Kristin Poser, Robert Rusky, Paul Wermer, Linda Walsh, Lotus Wong.

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Marutani

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES:

A. Sutter Street Permit Parking

Glynis reported that Kathryn Studwell from the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) informed her that the north side of Sutter, between Webster and Fillmore would be included in the Residential Parking Permit "G". Ms. Studwell also said the SFMTA would no longer consider adding parking meters on the south side of that block of Sutter.

B. Geary BRT Median Update:

Karen reported she and Kaz Naganuma met with a fabricator about the designs about feasibility and costs, confirming that the estimate for fabrication would be within the SFMTA budget.

A question was posed as to where the south side of the Buchanan crosswalk would be located and the relationship to the light signals and how it would impact the crosswalk use by children from Rosa Parks Elementary School.

C. Ford Go Bikes Update

Glynis reported she received an e-mail from Justin Nyugen from Ford Go Bike in response to the request for any research about the potential benefits that resulted from the installation of the bicycle stations, similar to Japantown, indicating that what he shared did not address this issue and that he would continue to seek out more appropriate statistics.

When asked what the current status was on the proposed sites in Japantown identified for possible installation of bicycle stations, Glynis said she would request an update for the next meeting.

D. NPC Lot Development Update

Glynis reported that there was no update.

E. Upcoming Geary BRT Outreach Meetings

Glynis reported she would be in contact with Marlayne Morgan to coordinate the joint meeting with JTF and Cathedral Hill with the Geary BRT possibly February or March 2018.

F. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Landmarking and Improvements Update

No news. The next Ad Hoc meeting is set for Monday, January 30, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at Union Bank Community Room.

G. Cannabis Legislation

Glynis reported she had not heard back from Nicole Elliott, adding that with the City attempting to implement policies regarding the purchase of marijuana in San Francisco, she is probably swamped; Glynis will update the committee as soon as she has anything new to add regarding the policies, in particular the possibility of a merchant who may consider opening up a shop somewhere in Japantown.

H. SF Beautiful

Glynis reported that this item has been postponed to the February meeting of the LUT. It was suggested that a meeting with the Lower and Upper Fillmore Merchants Association (in particular Monetta White and Vas Kiniris) to find out more about the Fillmore Bridge plan and any possible concerns or issues they may have with the project prior to the February LUT meeting.

I. Design Guidelines and City Action

Glynis reported she has reached out to Ann Brask about the adoption of the City's Urban Design Guidelines and special area guidelines. Planning has sent copies of area guidelines as examples. She would like to make Jtown Guidelines a priority for this year and check it off our JCHESS list of initiatives.

J. Webster Street Bridge Community Clean Up

Paul Wermer reported that the District Five Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, July 28, 2018 that could include painting the bridge and other sections of Geary.

Glynis has reached out to David Ishida, President of the Community Benefit District (CBD) to meet to discuss items such as this project.

Acknowledging the Bridge is in need of some major preparation before the community volunteers paint would require involvement of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Paul or Glynis will check into this aspect of the clean up.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cultural Heritage Districts

Supervisor Ronen proposed legislation to establish cultural heritage districts. He has six other supervisors co-sponsoring the legislation. It was reported that the JCHESS (Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy) has been referenced as a model for other neighborhoods to consider in establishing a cultural district. Glynis to discuss with Rosalyn Tonai about who will take the lead on behalf of JTF.

B. CBD Public Realm Improvement

Paul Wermer advised on exploring future opportunities with CBD leadership for potential collaborations on public realm improvements that make sense and may be mutually beneficial to partner on. It was noted that this may take some time, given that the CBD

has just incorporated and is in the process of assessing its priorities with stakeholders.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Building

Glynis announced that the former Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) headquarters located at 1710 Octavia Street is up for sale. It is adjacent to the San Francisco Buddhist Church located at 1881 Pine Street.

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.