



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Seiko Fujimoto, Judy Hamaguchi, Richard Hashimoto, Alice Kawahatsu, Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Benh Nakajo, Beau Simon, Neal Taniguchi, Clint Taura, Rosalyn Tonai

ABSENT: . Mark Moriguchi, Jon Osaki,

STAFF: Greg Marutani

GUESTS: Kathie Cheatham, Karen Kai, Steve Nakajo, Nancy Nagano, Robert Rusky, Michiko Yamada.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of February 21, 2018

It was moved by Neal Taniguchi and seconded by Richard Hashimoto to accept the revised draft minutes from the February 21, 2018 meeting as submitted.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use Transportation Committee

1. Update on Proposed sale of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Building
Glynis Nakahara reported that the sale of the BCA Building did not pass at the National Council of Buddhist Churches meeting in Sacramento. She added that she received a letter from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco (BCSF) thanking JTF for the letter of support opposing the sale at this time. A committee has been formed that includes a representative from BCSF to look for a short- and long-term resolution by the end of 2018.
2. SB 827 – Planning and zoning: transit-rich housing bonus
Glynis Nakahara referenced State bill SB 827 introduced by Scott Wiener that proposes to allow development along transit hubs and corridors by removing local planning codes with the intent to increase housing around the transit hubs and corridors. As Japantown is bounded by the Geary transit corridor, there is concern about the potential impact the proposed legislation would have on development in the neighborhood. Additional concern was raised as to what would happen to the JCHES guidelines.
3. Geary BRT Update
Glynis Nakahara reported that the Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association (CHNA) and JTF would host a joint meeting with representatives from the SF Municipal

Transportation Agency (SFMTA) on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the JCCCNC from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The regular rental for the Issei Memorial Hall (first floor) is \$173.00 per hour but available to non-profit organizations for \$103.00. The rental period would need to include preparation and break down time as well.

Glynis added that the CHNA offered to pay for the rental space, however, Glynis requested JTF to share the rental and refreshment expenses.

4. District 5 Clean Up

Glynis reported that a subcommittee of the LUT had a meeting with Kaz Naganuma to discuss the possible color to paint the railing of the Webster Street Bridge on the District 5 Clean Up day Saturday, July 28, 2018. A representative from the Department of Public Works (DPW) joined the group and did a “walk-through” noting that there is much preparation that would need to be done prior to the painting, however, they would wait until confirmation is made about the color and the availability of the paint before commencing with the work.

A question was raised about the possibility of having the crossing path to be power washed; Glynis said she would add that to the list.

B. Cultural Heritage Committee

1. Update on Legacy Business Program

It was reported that Kabuki Spring and Spa received a favorable vote at the Historic Preservation Commission earlier this month and is scheduled to be heard at the Small Business Commission on March 26, 2018. They would be the first business in Japantown to be recognized as a Legacy Business; Nihonmachi Little Friends was the first nonprofit in Japantown to be designated as a Legacy Business.

Rosalyn Tonai added that the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) is completing their application in the next week.

She added that NJAHS is willing to assist businesses by offering their services to go through their archives for research and completion of a Legacy Business application whenever possible.

C. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Ad Hoc Committee

Richard Hashimoto reported that the next meeting would be Tuesday, April 24 27, 2018 in the Community Room of Union Bank and start at 5:00 p.m.

Sandy Mori added that they are continuing their outreach to meet all of the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) and SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) commissioners. The goal is to be included in the 2019 park bond initiative.

A \$100,000 requested by the Ad Hoc Committee to be set aside for a community design process is being considered by RPD.

It was noted that McGinnis Chen was awarded another contract to determine what will be needed to continue the analysis of the work needed in the Peace Plaza.

D. Economic Development/Marketing

Alice highlighted the following:

- Restrooms on the first floor of the East Mall are being renovated and hope they will be ready by Cherry Blossom Festival;
- Renovation of the 2nd floor restrooms would not begin until after the Cherry Blossom Festival;
- The homeless are using the restrooms in the Malls to “shower”;
- The Japan Center Malls would be celebrating their 50th anniversary on March 28, 2018;
- The Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD) has provided financial support to the Nichi Bei Foundation for the updating and printing of the Japantown Map and Directory;
- The new captain at Northern Station, Joseph Engler, would be attending a meeting in the Community Room on Thursday, March 29, starting at 1:00 p.m.;

E. Finance Committee

Mark Moriguchi asked if there were any questions about his monthly financial report. There were none.

Sandy said she met with Diana Ponce del Leon, the staff person from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) about the proposed deliverables for the 2018-2019 contract. She added Ms. Del Leon encouraged JTF focus on cultural activities, which Sandy is working on for the deliverables.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and second by Neal Taniguchi to adopt the 2018-2019 budget.

The motion passed.

IV. UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sandy Mori announced the following:

- A, The Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) granted permission to the JTF and JCBD to organize an event in the Buchanan Mall on June 2 and 3, 2018 to attract more visitors to this particular part of Japantown. Judy Hamaguchi as the lead with Steve Nakajo handling the logistics on behalf of JTF.

Proposed plans include some entertainment, craft activities, as well as have the JTF kiosk in the area with literature promoting Japantown.

A recommendation was presented to look into “Johnnyfun Cheap” as a way of promoting this event as it is free to the public, which is what this website promotes.

- B. Representatives from the three Japantowns met at the Center discussing on collaborating on state level issues to preserve the Japantowns; so, a steering committee was formed to look at common areas of concern.

It was mentioned that a fourth Japantown neighborhood has been recognized; Sawtelle in West Los Angeles, California.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee to Allocate Donated Funds in Memory of Bob Hamaguchi
Scott Hamaguchi asked if it wasn't too late to consider looking into installing permanent lighting in the Buchanan Mall in lieu of the internship proposal mentioned at last month's meeting. He would like to have further discussion with Rich Hashimoto and Neal Taniguchi who are on the ad hoc committee.
- B. Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members
Sandy referred to the memo issued by Don Tamaki regarding the responsibilities of Board members. It was recommended that the memo be included in the packet that would be given to new Board members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Sandy reported that in a discussion with Don Tamaki about reviewing and updating the JTF Bylaws that, if asked, he would not charge his \$500 per hour fee, rather, a discounted hourly fee of \$300.

It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Rich Hashimoto to engage Don Tamaki to review the JTF Bylaws to update them as needed.

The motion passed.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Benh Nakajo announced that Kristi Yamaguchi would be the Grand Marshal for this year's Cherry Blossom Festival. He added that Dale Minami and Don Tamaki would be the Community Grand Marshals.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

THE CLOSED SESSION OUTCOME:

The JTF Board voted to offer the JTF Executive Director position to Steve Nakajo at 30 hours per week with benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hamaguchi
Secretary