



# JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

## NOTES FROM THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

1765 SUTTER STREET

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

### BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Clint Taura, DDS, Judy Hamaguchi, Richard Hashimoto, Alice Kawahatsu

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Paul Wermer, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Linda Walsh, Anthony Thomley

### STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Nakajo, Greg Marutani, Coco Tando

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

## I. INTRODUCTIONS

## II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES:

### A. Zip Cars – Anthony Thomley

Anthony Thomley from the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) provided a brief history of the development of car sharing program in the City, which began with the car sharing businesses receiving the go-ahead with approximately 200 parking spaces of their choosing that were eventually authorized by the SFMTA on a trial basis.

The intent of the trial program was to provide individuals in a neighborhood of reducing the number of vehicles in a household with the hope that, in some instances, even their one vehicle by using one of the car sharing vehicles in their neighborhood if a vehicle is needed.

Mr. Thomley reported that the data indicated that an average of nineteen (19) individuals used the vehicles 1 ½ times a month. He noted that the two “reserved” spaces located at the corner of Laguna and Post were used by 25 individuals 1 ½ times per month. A copy of the 58-page Carshare Evaluation report may be downloaded at:

[https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/projects/2017/Carshare\\_eval\\_final.pdf](https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/projects/2017/Carshare_eval_final.pdf)

He reported that the participating car sharing entities are being given the opportunity to increase their presence in the City and will share them with the SFMTA, which would then review the proposed locations and remove and/or propose alternate locations, then reach out to the neighborhoods, including Japantown, seeking input about proposed locations, before being presented to the SFMTA Board of Directors for adoption.

Concerns about the location of the two car sharing spaces in Japantown were expressed as the spaces are metered and around the corner from businesses that could benefit if visitors and/or shoppers could have access to the two metered spaces.

Mr. Thomley said he would be glad to hear from the JTF about this particular and added that the two spaces could be removed or preferably, relocated so the current users of the car sharing program would be able to continue to participate.

Before leaving the meeting Mr. Thomley announced that the SFMTA has recently completed a comprehensive, data driven evaluation of the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program. He left a one-page handout that provided a link to the SFMTA material at: [www.sfmta.com/neighborhoodparking](http://www.sfmta.com/neighborhoodparking); or e-mail [InfoRPP@sfmta.com](mailto:InfoRPP@sfmta.com) with questions or comments or for more information about the RPP.

**B. Update on Japantown Cultural Heritage District (CHD)**

Glynis Nakahara reported that there would be a public hearing on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 in the main chambers at City Hall that begins at 2:00 p.m. There is a need to work with Supervisor Hillary Ronen's office to correct the boundaries in the current language of the draft legislation to align with the JCHESS boundaries.

**C. Update on Webster Bridge Community Clean Up**

Paul Wermer reported that sample colors for the painting of the Webster Street Bridge has been made; plans are to apply them to various places on the Bridge to provide an idea of what the color would look like under various conditions.

Once the samples are painted on to the Bridge, the question was how to gather feedback from individuals. Whatever method selected, it was suggested that it would not allow an individual to vote more than once.

It was recommended that outreach to the community should begin very soon. A flyer was suggested that could be sent to organizations such as Nihonmachi Little Friends, YMCA-Buchanan Branch, St. Francis Square, JCCCNC, Nakayoshi, JCYC, NCI interns, JCBD and others to get a good turnout for community clean up that is scheduled for July 28, 2018.

The regular gathering location for District clean-up is near Kezar Stadium off of Stanyan. It was suggested to find out if the Japantown volunteers meet in the Peace Plaza rather having to be transported from Kezar to Japantown.

**D. Geary BRT Outreach Meeting w/ Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association (CHNA)**

Glynis Nakahara reported she will have a conference call later this week about the joint meeting with JTF, Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association (CHNA) and staff from the SFMTA involved with the Geary BRT that is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Sequoias located at 1400 Geary Boulevard.

Regarding refreshments, Glynis will check to see if the Sequoias will allow outside refreshments to be brought into their auditorium and, if so would like to have JTF cover the expense as the Sequoias is opening up their space at no charge for the joint meeting.

After Glynis reported that the SFMTA staff were not ready to discuss the possible disruption that the construction might create or a possible timeline for the construction work might entail some issues were raised regarding the need to consider the many seniors who reside in the neighborhood and that there have been some personal issues users of MUNI on the Van Ness Corridor have encountered with temporary relocation stops, the confusion that may result from potentially relocating bus stops might create confusion for the seniors should be taken into account.

If excavation is involved, concern was raised about the possible increase in the number of the appearance of rodents, in particular rats, and would like to know what, if anything the SFMTA would do to minimize their invading backyards in search of new shelter.

It was recommended that these concerns be shared with SFMTA sooner rather than later so they have an opportunity to provide possible remedies for these items of concern.

**E. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Landmarking and Improvements**

Richard Hashimoto reported that the April 24, 2018 was canceled. He added that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in the Community Room at Union Bank that will begin at 5:00 p.m.

**F. Neighborhood Design Guidelines**

A meeting to work on the Japantown Neighborhood Design Guidelines was set for Saturday, June 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm. with the meeting location to be determined. Volunteers included Glynis Nakahara, Karen Kai, Linda Walsh, and Paul Wermer.

**G. BCA Building**

Glynis Nakahara reported she was invited to attend a meeting of individuals who are working on researching short- and long-term remedies to avoid the sale of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) building.

**H. Pa'ina Restaurant/Club Extension of Time for Entertainment\***

Glynis Nakahara reported that she has been in contact with Beung Kwon, the owner of Pa'ina, encouraging him to reach out to the AMC Kabuki management as well as the property owner, the residents in the Golden Gate Apartments, especially those on the Post Street side, and the JCBD, as a demonstration of a good faith effort.

When she inquired about a deadline for this effort, she has not received a response from Mr. Kwon.

When the question about the possible sale of the business, would the new operator automatically be entitled to the live performance permit to 2:00 a.m. and if the current or future operator violated the requirements of the permit what would be the procedure(s) and approximately how long would it take to revoke that permit. This item would be researched further and reported back at the next meeting.

Clint Taura, DDS, recommended creating a "check list" of items that include recommendations and request for additional information related to the permit process and procedures.

**I. SB 827**

Glynis reported that the proposed bill "died" in committee in Sacramento. The consensus was that another attempt would be coming forward in the near future and that the Committee would remain in contact with the coalition.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In response to an inquiry about an update on the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) possible development of their two parking lots, Glynis reported that she was in contact with the NPC and was told they hope to have some announcement at the June meeting of the Committee.

On May 15, 2018, the Mayor's "Fix It Team" will be at the JACL Headquarters on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to hear from the community what concerns and issues need attention in Japantown.

It was announced that there would be a "Buchanan Street Mall Celebration" on June 2-3, 2018 from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. that would include live entertainment to attract visitors to this part of Japantown to promote the businesses in the Buchanan Mall.

Tables and chairs are being provided by JTF to encourage merchants to promote their goods and products.

The Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD) will be promoting visitors to make a minimum \$5.00 purchase to receive a sticker and when they receive three different stickers they would be able to go to the JTF Visitors Kiosk, which will be in the Buchanan Mall, and receive a free gift.

The NPC has waived its \$500 per day fee for this event.

The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 11, 2018.