



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

**AD HOC PEACE PLAZA/PAGODA COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**
UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Mori, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Richard Hashimoto, Benh Nakajo, Jon Osaki, Alice Kawahatsu

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ai Hiyama, Coco Tando, Michael DeGregorio

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Nina Nakao

The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm.

I. Presentation by Michael DeGregorio

Michael DeGregorio from Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) gave a presentation discussing the conceptual plan for the Peace Plaza. His design team will research the Peace Plaza's history and its function as a public space today. They will also look into different case studies that are similar to the Peace Plaza. Michael DeGregorio plans to include interactive activities at the community meetings to collect community input on the concept design, such as having the public place, red or green dots on certain elements to vote on what they like or don't like about the Plaza.

Michael DeGregorio asked if the expansion joint repairs should be discussed at the July 31st meeting. The committee decided it is important to let the community know how these repairs will be executed but should not take a large portion of the meeting. The committee also requested to include the summary of recommendations on the Peace Plaza written in the JCHESS, and to have information on the work that was already done with the community during the vision planning process 15 years ago.

II. Updates

No updates were made since these updates were already made in past committee and JTF Board meetings. Instead, the meeting time was used to discuss the outreach plan for the upcoming first community meeting on July 31, 2018.

III. Community Meeting scheduled for July 31, 2018

A. Discussion on Outreach Plan

The outreach plan is to connect with more organizations and make announcements to a wide range of audience before the next public meeting. This first meeting will be informational purpose only of a series of three meetings. The flyers can be included in community newspapers, including Nichi Bei Weekly, J-Weekly, Nikkei West, and Bayspo. The meeting announcement would also go on social media, including the JTF and RPD website. Printed flyers would be distributed to the neighborhood organizations, businesses, and residents.

For organizations, the following committee members will reach out to these organizations:

- Jon Osaki: Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC), Asian Pacific Islander (API) Council
- Alice Kawahatsu: National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), Japanese American Religious Federation (JARF)
- Judy Hamaguchi: Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL) San Francisco Chapter, Nakayoshi Young Professionals
- Glynis Nakahara: Nihonmachi Little Friends, Sequoias
- Sandy Mori: Kimochi
- Rich Hashimoto: Japantown Merchants Association (JMA), Kinokuniya, Kinmon Gakuen, Cherry Blossom Festival Planning Committee
- Grace Horikiri: Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD), Nihonmachi Street Fair
- Ai Hiyama: Consulate-General of Japan, Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Coco Tando: Hokka Nichibei Kai

On Sunday, July 1st, there will be a Japan Day Festival from 11am-4pm. Michael DeGregorio will be there from 12pm-3pm passing out flyers and surveys for the community to answer. A few firefighters, Lauren Nosaka and Nina Nakao will help volunteer.

The community meeting will be held on July 31, 2018 from 6pm-8pm at the JCCCNC Issei Memorial Hall.

IV. Next Steps

The committee requested to have a design consultant involved with the community design process to ensure that the Peace Plaza design will be authentic, with culturally appropriate elements in the Plaza. It was addressed that the committee will need to find a design consultant as soon as possible. Michael DeGregorio stated that the design consultant should be identified soon after the first community meeting on July 31st, for the consultant to be involved with the community design process.

Steve Nakajo commented on the limitations in funding and staff capacity to better support the committee, outreach process, project management, and community design process. RPD will not be able to support and fund for the extra staff support.

V. Next Meeting Date

There will be no Peace Plaza Ad Hoc Committee in July, since the community meeting will be held on July 31, 2018 from 6pm-8pm at the JCCCNC Issei Memorial Hall instead.