

**LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Notes**

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

6:00 p.m.

JACL Building

1765 Sutter Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Wemer, Rich Hashimoto, David Ishida,

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeremy Chan

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Robert Sakai

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. PRESENTATION**

None

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Update on Geary BRT meeting**

**1. Steiner Street Bridge**

It has been difficult to gather support for the Steiner Street Bridge. Rodney Chin from the Buchanan YMCA has tried to reach out to others. It may have been difficult to notify teachers/parents because the school year just ended. As city employees, Hamilton Rec Center and library employees may feel uncomfortable to speak out. Because there are lots of youth at Kimball Playground and the Hamilton Recreation Center during the summer, it may be worth going there to take some pictures and engage with local leaders.

**2. Local Stop Only at Laguna**

Senior groups across the entire street have been speaking out in response to potential removed stops. They often use the bus midday, when it's crowded. Tom Nolan, chair of the MTA board, works with aging and adult services and has expressed his support for keeping the Laguna rapid stop. It was suggested to arrange a meeting between Kathie Cheatham and Tom Nolan, as well as visit the Supervisors' offices.

**B. Update Re Design Guidelines and City Action**

There is no update.

**C. Discussion re criteria for supporting businesses at Planning Hearing**

It was discussed (under #5) that there may be businesses that may not be culturally relevant but still brings traffic to the neighborhood. In those cases, even though they aren't culturally relevant, we can argue that they will strengthen the overall business community, so the language will be edited to include businesses that "strengthen Japantown."

It was suggested to prepare a package to give to potential businesses detailing the criteria and what events in Japantown they could support.

It was suggested to solicit the opinion of current Japantown business owners, such as through the Economic Development and Marketing committee. We should also encourage merchants on a regular basis to support the Japantown community.

It was discussed that if businesses are being assessed for the CBD, they may be reluctant to contribute to the community in other ways. That being said, there is a distinction between the CBD, which supports street cleaning, security, etc. and businesses getting involved in the local festivals.

It was decided that Paul Wermer will present the Design Guidelines at the JEDM meeting to get merchant input.

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#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC)**

In response to receiving an offer to develop the NPC parking lots, the NPC has formed a committee of board members and community members to issue Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) to see if there is interest among companies and individuals to develop the lots. These RFQs will be evaluated and a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to qualifying applicants. NPC's shareholders were drawn from the Nihonmachi Community Development Corporation (NCDC) when they completed redevelopment in the 1980s, and they will decide the future of the lots. NPC plans to keep the community posted.

Issues such as the maintenance of the Buchanan Mall and contracting with the city will need to be dealt with by the developers. Once NPC receives RFQs, they can provide updates include potentially at the JTF board meeting.

It was asked if NPC's member list are public, and noted that people appreciate the transparency of the NPC process.

**B. Proposed Issei Memorial Garden at Cottage Row Mini-Park**

Paul Wermer discussed the community meeting regarding the JCCCNC's proposal to create an Issei Memorial Garden in Cottage Row as part of the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Although some Cottage Row residents are part of the committee, it seems that some Cottage Row residents who have worked with Rec and Park on Cottage Row maintenance had not been informed.

**C. Peace Plaza Repair**

It was suggested to keep Peace Plaza Repair on the Land Use meeting and track it closely, as the city has made commitments and it's important to hold them to it. It was noted that the repair of the Peace Plaza is separate from landmarking the Pagoda.

MTA has transferred funds to Rec and Park. Rec and Park needs to coordinate with DPW to work with the contractor McGinnis Chen. They have decided to wait until after the Osaka Festival in August (which recently moved to the Peace Plaza)

Paul will ask Bob to create a memo about the current timeline.

JTF is proposing to redo the Peace Plaza properly. It was suggested to get an update on where the Pagoda landmarking process is now, so the two efforts can be coordinated, especially to clarify whether both the Peace Pagoda and Peace Plaza or just the Peace Pagoda will be landmarked.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

The meeting concluded at 7:25 p.m.