

**LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**
1765 SUTTER STREET
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018
MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Clint Taura, Judy Hamaguchi,

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Paul Wermer, Linda Walsh, Jeremy Chan, Angelica Ramirez

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Nina Nakao

The meeting began at 6:06 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Agenda approved. No other introductions.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES:

A. Pa'ina Restaurant/Club Extension of Business Hours for Entertainment*

- Beung from Pa'ina Restaurant has given an attachment of support letters. It has an agreement with AMC, a conditional written approval in exchange for entry between AMC Kabuki and Pa'ina. Pa'ina will respond promptly to any notices from AMC if sound is audible in the theater and will reduce the volume until AMC confirms it is no longer audible. Other documents are letters of support from Kabuki Springs and other businesses that didn't clarify their stake in the matter. It should be noted that there are no letters from anyone on Post St. property.
- Beung wants a letter of support in order to get a hearing date, however, is concerned about the residents. Beung will proceed with or without a letter from JTF. Glynis urged him to reach out to the residents and he has done some outreach. It was stated that if he's going to invest in booking artists, he should make sure he won't have to cancel performances due to resident's concerns later on.
- Judy commented that six letters are not a sufficient amount of support. In the past, Pa'ina has been shut down several times for this same issue. In 2013, there were complaints from Kabuki Theater, Hot Springs, JTF and Cherry Blossom Festival. Judy suggested talking to Pat Wong about the incidents in 2013.
- Judy reported that the Executive Board leaned towards no letter at all and Sandy indicated that the role of JTF didn't seem to make or break. Steve added that there needs to be an action as opposed to no action and thinks "no objection" is fair from a commercial point of view especially since Beung will proceed anyways with objections and without letter.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote to recommend a letter of no objection based on the letters of support from adjacent commercial properties with six votes in favor, no abstentions and no opposed.

B. Update on Japantown Cultural Heritage District (CHD)

- The CHD needs to clarify uncertainties about the boundaries and multiple questions

- were raised of how legislation will proceed and the impacts it will have to Japantown. The legislative language defines the CHD are within boundaries of JCHESS, California Street, Gough Street, Ellis Street and Steiner Street. In JCHESS, a cultural survey was done and 3 properties are outside the boundaries: The Western Addition library, a property on Sutter Street and another one on Gough between Fern and Sutter Street. It was noted that it is unrealistic to think that these boundaries will not overlap with other group's maps. This is pretty significant to note that the Western Addition Library has a Japanese section and African American section.
- Glynis reached out to Brian Cheu, Director of the Department that handles the implementation but he never responded. For now, the committee decided to keep on top of the questions regarding boundaries, invite Brian Cheu so the committee would be able to help with the development of his goals. If Brian Cheu attends, Rosalyn Tonai should also be invited because of her involvement in the sites that were established through the document.

C. Update on Webster Bridge Painting/D5 Clean Up Day

- Glynis checked the survey and 98 responses have been received. As well as six responses by text. As of now, purple is slightly ahead right now on the survey. Twenty-three people have signed up to paint the Webster Bridge so far. Registration will begin at 8:30am so painting can start at 9am. Nina Nakao will send out one final reminder about the voting deadline on Friday urging people to register. By Friday, hopefully 30-50 people will volunteer. Glynis suggested out to reaching out to businesses to receive refreshments. Clint will reach out to Starbucks.
- Brenda Aoki Wong emailed pleading to add another color (Vermillion) but Glynis explained that all the information has been distributed and it would be too complicated to add another color. Japantown needs a master vision and we could repaint again at that point.
- Glynis pointed out that we will honor whichever wins. The painting event info was published in the NichiBei Weekly.

D. Update on Geary BRT Final EIR*

- There were two last minute changes. Marilyn Morgan sent out an email regarding the bus stop controversy. The bus stop used to be in front of the Unitarian Church but it was taken away. The Cathedral Hill meeting complained because of the difficulty for the seniors. Cathedral Hill would prefer the stop to be up the hill but it's still difficult for seniors to climb the hill. The stop is currently at Geary and Gough St. Karen Kai added that stops were taken out due to construction and those stops need to be put back.
- Glynis will get back to Marilyn. Jeremy asked if there was any comment on the Filmore and Webster changes but that was part of the original Cathedral Hill.

E. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Landmarking and Improvements

- Steve Nakajo informed the Peace Plaza Community Meeting will be held on July 31st.
- Michael Degregorio, the Project Manager, is coordinating with interns from Parks and Rec. to distribute intercept surveys. Ninety surveys were collected on the Japan Day Festival.
- The dates are not finite but JTF is coordinating a schedule between interns to support them. Michael is doing spot outreach. We have reached out to Nichibei, Nikkei West and Robert Handa to do press on this meeting.

- The community meeting's current outline is as follows: Introduction by Jon Osaki, and Presentation by Michael Degregorio and staff in terms of information and input.

F. Neighborhood Design Guidelines

- Glynis needs to schedule site design. Only two people were available last time.

G. 1710 Octavia/BCA Building

- Glynis thought she'd have an update but so far there have been no further meetings. She is thinking about potential community partners.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Committee Meeting Notes/Minutes Taking

- Steve Nakajo is recommending that Transportation Land Use Committee take their own minutes. All committees in fact because staff resources are very slim. When there were five committees, it wasn't the best use of staff time. Steve is trying to get the committees to be self-sufficient. Posting is not a difficult task but minutes are a little harder. The resources in TLU are strong. This is also in consideration of the fact that Cultural Preservation is coming back in the next two months and we need extra support.
- Karen Kai pointed out that all committees are to be treated the same under the bylaws because of equity. She explained that this committee does so much outside of meeting time that it is not respectful to ask this committee to do it themselves. Karen Kai indicated that as long as Ad Hoc does their own minutes, Land Use will write their own minutes as well.
- Ad Hoc is more difficult due to their instability of meeting attendance, and Richard Hashimoto did not want to do it himself when asked last time. Steve explained that until there is more infrastructure support, JTF staff will eventually have to say no.
- Robert expressed that he understood from Steve's initial comment to be that Ad Hoc wouldn't have to write their own minutes until later on. Robert believes that "it would be ideal if staff were able to support the committees" and that Ad Hoc has to be simultaneously.
- The only reason Steve hesitated was because he asked Ad Hoc and was refused. This is a vital time for Ad Hoc so it seems that he needs to go to the next committee and ask again. Ideally, the resurgence of Cultural Heritage would take pressure off staff to be in-between.
- Clint made a point that the Board voted Steve to be Executive Director so we need to listen and fully support him through tough decisions. Clint asked if staff could still post the agenda to the website and email the two libraries.
- Jeremy mentioned he was staff for the Board Meetings and Economic Development Meetings and the minutes did not take him a long time. His concern with this is that JTF will become siloed and whoever takes on this task will have to learn the website.

B. New Committee Member*

- Jeremy is currently a law student at UC Hastings, a previous Community Aid to JTF, and studied about the Japanese American history in college at NSU, which led him to pursue social justice law. He is trying to give back to the JA community for

propelling his career. He is particularly connected to the Land Use Committee because he is humbled by the amount of advocacy that comes from this committee such as the preservation of the Laguna Bus Stop.

- The motion to recommend Jeremy was passed by a unanimous vote.

C. Improving Change of Use Noticing

- It was noted there was an email from Richard Hashimoto regarding another tea shop on the second floor of the East Mall.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.