

**JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018
 6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
 1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115**

- ATTENDEES:** Sandy Mori, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Seiko Fujimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, Jacquelyn Chew, Coco Tando, Scott Hamaguchi
- ABSENT:** Richard Hashimoto, Neal Taniguchi, Jon Osaki, Benh Nakajo, Clint Taura, Alice Kawahatsu, Kenta Takamori, David Takashima
- STAFF:** Lauren Nosaka, Nikki Yoshikawa, Max Toshiro Loubet
- GUESTS:** Jeremy Chan, Karen Kai, Tomo Hirai, 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 October 17, 2018

It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Scott Hamaguchi to accept the minutes from the October 17th meeting (Attachment A).

The motion passed unanimously.

No public comments.

III. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE NAKAJO

The president excused Steve Nakajo from the meeting as he had a medical procedure.

The president reported that JTF volunteer Steve Nakajima, submitted a proposal to the Japantown Foundation (Attachment B). If granted, it will be used to hire a person to work on the Peace Plaza project. JTF volunteer Steve Nakajima, submitted a proposal to SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development’s Nonprofit Resiliency Fund for leadership transition. Both funding sources will reach a decision by the end of November or the end of the 2018 year for \$25,000 each. The president also reported that this year we received \$152,000 including a \$12,000 addback from Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD).

Lauren Nosaka welcomed the new board members, introduced 2 new hires, Nikki Yoshikawa and Max Toshiro Loubet, and reported that JTF wrote a letter of support for Brenda Aoki Wong’s Hewlett Foundation Grant.

No public comments.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Land Use/Transportation Committee.....(Glynis Nakahara)

1. Car/Bike Share

Glynis Nakahara reported that 3 guests at her Nov. 5th meeting, Andy Thornley from Zipcar, Alex Garcia from Ford Go Bikes, and Adrian Leung from MTA. The committee looked at several alternative zip car sites to the current spot on Laguna and Post St. One of the alternative spots is on the south side of Post between Laguna and Golf St. It is past the bus stop and going up towards the Sequoias. The second spot is on the west side of Laguna between Post and Geary. The third spot is around the corner on Geary, near the top of the hill. Andy Thornley listened to the alternative spot suggestions and will discuss it with SFMTA.

Alex Garcia and Adrian Leung discussed the targeted bike racks. The committee let the representatives know that Japantown does not want to see any bike racks on Post St. The committee rejected both spots on Post St. by Dosa and in front of Union Bank and indicated that they'd like to move the spots elsewhere. Glynis requested from Alex and Adrian a detailed description of the process with a timeline moving forward. The target of installation is the first quarter of 2019.

Committee members and the president met with Tom Maguire, Director of Sustainability Streets. The committee was concerned about bike impacts in Japantown and Tom was very open to alternative sites. The president indicated to Tom that Japantown does not want the Ford Go bikes in front of Union Bank. Derek Remski from Supervisor's Brown office informed JTF that Supervisor Brown supports bike and car share as an important method of transit but was glad to hear the committee is open and cooperating to find an alternative that will meet everyone's needs.

2. CPMC Joint Meeting

The joint meeting is to discuss with Sutter Health any concerns Japantown has with the CPMC hospital. The meeting has been pushed to January and the hospital will open in March.

3. Geary BRT Groundbreaking

Amy Fowler from SFMTA reached out to Glynis to kick off the Geary BRT Project by having an event at the Peace Plaza on January 23rd but the date is contingent on the Mayor's schedule. SFMTA will focus on the cross walk and the artist panels.

There were 3 comments from the public.

- Why do we need Ford Go bikes if we already have Jump bikes and will the Ford Go bikes impact the Jump bikes.
- The closest bike share is Raymond Kimball Playground and 357 riders took a total of 897 trips as of October 2018.
- The JCHESS committee did data research and conducted surveys of visitors coming to Japantown. The closest bike share is actually in front of Safeway on Webster St.
- The average age for bike sharers is 36 and 38 years old, women and men respectively according to the Geary BRT bus data.

B. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Committee.....(Richard Hashimoto/Jon Osaki)

1. Update from 11.7 meeting with RHAA Design Advisors

Jon Osaki and Richard Hashimoto could not be at the meeting so the president gave an update on the October 25th public community meeting #2. It was a good meeting, very engaging and the representative at each of the tables presented input for the design

concepts. The design advisors are Doug Nelson and Masahiro Inoue from RHAA and were hired by SF Rec and Park. The design advisors provide advice to the community.

The 3rd public community meeting will be held in January and will show the community one or two designs. There will be a design charrette with JTF representatives, SF DPW, and the design advisors in December. The design process is ongoing and with a goal to get on the 2019 Parks Bond. However, city hall is still deciding which bond to put on the 2019 ballot, such as a homeless bond, housing bond or parks bond. The Peace Plaza renovation will cost between \$25 million to \$40 million dollars. JTF is looking at other sources of funding from the state and private sources.

V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Discussion of Co-chairs of Committees

The president described the two kinds of committees: working and standing committees. The standing committees are executive committee, finance committee, and nominations committee. The working committees are: Land Use/Transportation, Peace Plaza and Cultural Heritage.

The by-laws state that the chair of the committee has to be a board member. Historically, each committee has chosen to have co-chairs. Co-chairs and committee members are decided by the committee then presented to the board for approval. The co-chairs will also be members of the board of directors. Accountability of the chairs of the committees to the JTF Board is important.

Public Comments:

- The Japantown Organizing Committee built JCHESS to have an open and broad community process. The commenter expressed that JTF is rigid and difficult to get in.
- If there isn't a current policy in place for accountability, the accountability should be made for everyone on the committee, not just the board member.

2. Overview of JTF area of work – the big picture

The president reviewed JTF's big projects. As a governing body, the JTF Board needs to develop policies related to land use, economic development, and political strategies for Jtown.

The ongoing projects are:

- Peace Plaza Project
- The potential development of two Nihonmachi Parking Lots
- 3-D's covenants of the two Japan Center Malls expiring in 2021
- Blackstone's direction for the Hotel Kabuki
- AMC Kabuki's lease will end in 5 years
- The disposition of the Buddhist Church in America building next door to the SF Buddhist Temple
- Potential sale of the Mihara building on Sutter and Buchanan St.
- Whether the Kinokuniya building will be kept the same, renovated or sold
- Geary BRT construction project in Japantown beginning in Jan. 2019

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Comments:

The Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP) Forum finished their three-day panel on November 13th. JTF participated in the Open House informing delegates about Japantown activities.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SF Japantown Foundation Osechi Ryori fundraiser, January 10th 2019, Hotel Kabuki
JTF applied for the Japantown Foundation for funding. The president requested a board member to coordinate a table or two tables for the New Year's event. The tickets are \$200 per person. Judy Hamaguchi volunteered to help coordinate the event.
2. SF JACL Spaghetti Crab Feed Dec. 1st 5-8:30pm at Christ United Presbyterian Church
3. Orientation for new JTF Board members Nov. 19th 6pm

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Mori at 7:20pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 6-8pm at the Union Bank Community Room.