



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Glynis Nakahara, Judy Hamaguchi, Clint Taura, Richard Hashimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Seiko Fujimoto, Beau Simon, Jon Osaki, Alice Kawahatsu, Rosalyn Tonai

ABSENT: Sandy Mori, Neal Taniguchi

STAFF: Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka

GUESTS: Jacquelyn Chew, Steve Nakajima, Penny Nakatsu, Tomo Hirai, Kenta Takamori, Matt Nagatomi, Karen Kai, Michiko Yamada, Taizo Horikawa, Junpei Asai, Rev. Gary Barberie, Nob Mihara

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Vice President Glynis Nakahara. A quorum was acknowledged. Each guest introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting on July 18, 2018

It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Clint Taura to accept the draft minutes from the June 20, 2018 meeting.

The motion passed by twelve in favor and one abstention.

III. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE NAKAJO

Steve Nakajo reviewed the highlights from the August 2018 Executive Director's report (Attachment A).

A total of three comments were shared from the public.

1. Matt Nagatomi thanked everyone for allowing him to be involved in the community for the past 10 years with the Cherry Blossom Festival. 2. Beau Simon asked if the Suite 525 space will be donated to JTF and how the space will be used. Beau commented that if we pay then could we generate revenue from the space and contribute that to JTF. 3. Tomo Hirai expressed that she thought a co-chair must be a board member and David Takashima is not a board member, only a committee member.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use/Transportation Committee.....(Glynis Nakahara/Clint Taura DDS)

1. Pa'ina Letter*

Clint Taura reported that Beung Kwon of Pa'ina is asking JTF to write a letter of no objection to 2am hours expansion.

Beung Kwon gave a presentation to the Board. He received letters of support from AMC and Kabuki Hot Springs last month and recently received six letters from the apartment across the street. Board members expressed that some

residents had oppositions. Beung answered that those oppositions were with the previous owner. He has been the owner of Pa'ina for three years with a good track record. He believes there is much confusion of where the noise is coming from as some places are open until 5am. He has installed new cameras and soundproofing for this reason.

Michiko Yamada, a resident, commented that Beung should speak to the resident manager at the apartment complex and she can pass along the information to the residents. Beung explained he did not do that as he thought there would be more confusion and thought six letters is good enough.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Clint Taura for JTF to write a letter of no objection.

The vote passed with eleven in favor, one abstention and one opposed.

2. Ichi Pub/1706 Post St. ABC Expansion*
Kevin Duong from Ichi Pub asked for a letter of support to serve alcohol on the mezzanine space of his restaurant. Alcohol Beverage Control misplaced the previous documentation so Kevin is getting everything remapped. Kevin received letters of support from neighbors in the community including Doobu Restaurant and Kimochi.

It was moved by Jon Osaki and seconded by Benh Nakajo for JTF to write a letter of support to have ABC expand serving alcohol on the mezzanine level.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Webster Bridge Painting/D5 Clean Team
The Webster Bridge Painting and D5 Clean Up Day was a huge success and good for Japantown. People of all ages came out to help.
4. Geary BRT Final EIR
The Board spoke of recommending a letter of appreciation for SFMTA's outreach efforts and also acknowledge Mayor Breed & Supervisor Brown for their support to the Japantown community.

It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Beau Simon for JTF to write a letter of appreciation.

The vote passed unanimously.

5. Neighborhood Design Guidelines
There are no updates.

B. Update from Ad Hoc Peace Plaza Committee.....(Richard Hashimoto/Jon Osaki)

1. Peace Plaza Committee to become a working committee called Peace Plaza Committee*

Jon Osaki thanked everyone for a successful well-received first community meeting. The proposal is to turn Ad Hoc into a working committee. The thought is to formalize a committee with intense focus and effort. It is not a temporary committee.

It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Benh Nakajo to allow the committee to be changed to a working committee called Peace Plaza Committee.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Peace Plaza Committee Members*

A new slate of committee members was decided and two new names were added (Attachment B).

There were two comments from the public.

1. Karen Kai asked if outreach was done letting people know since she did not hear of anything. She has a long history of working on the Peace Plaza, has put a lot of effort on design, and has corrected mistakes so we make sure to not fall into the same traps.

2. Tomo Hirai inquired if it's a new policy for the Board to approve of the committee members.

It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Alice Kawahatsu to approve of Peace Plaza Committee Memmbers.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Update from the July 31st Community Meeting and Role of a Design Advisor
Jon Osaki explained the design advisor will be paid from SF Rec & Parks but will represent the community. The design advisor has not been confirmed yet.

There was one comment from the public.

Karen Kai commented how much money will be used for this advisor, when will this advisor will star consulting, and what are the requirements for this position.

C. Nominations Committee Update.....(Judy Hamaguchi)

Judy Hamaguchi gave an update and the committee is interviewing a good list of people. The Nominations Committee will do final interviews in September and a new slate of nominations will be finalized in October.

VI. UPDATE FROM JTF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Peace Plaza Committee to interview & Select a Design Advisor*

Glynis Nakahara pointed out that this will enable the Peace Plaza Committee to make a decision on the slate of potential design advisors. This ensures a fair and open process.

It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Judy Hamaguchi.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Nakajo was impressed with the tremendous outcome at Nihonamchi Street Fair on August 4th and 5th and gave a big shout out to Grace Horikiri, Jubob, and the committee for their hard work.

Jacquelyn Chew expressed her gratitude for JTF's sponsorship to the Osaka Matsuri that's happening on September 29th.

Alice Kawahatsu mentioned the successful United for Compassion II: Vigil was held on August 9th and many outside communities attended spoke up for what's right. Alice commented that they put up their Wall of Compassion in the Union Bank Community Room's display window and the wall will be up until the 16th.

Jon Osaki thanked everyone who came out and supported the vigil. He mentioned that we cannot allow what to the Japanese American community to happen again to others. Rosalyn Tonai acknowledged Kenji Taguma for creating the vigil logo and outreaching to the public.

Rosalyn Tonai commented that she has a Japan Center History Exhibit founded by the Takahashi Program for the 50th Anniversary of the Japan Center at the National Japanese American Historic Society Gallery. Rev. Gary Barberie expressed his experience at San Francisco State University during the formation of the Ethnic Studies Department in 1968 and 1968 which was a real call for action 50 years ago coinciding with NJAHS history exhibit.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Glynis Nakahara announced that there will be a public hearing for the Geary Rapid Project 1pm at City Hall on August 24th. Richard Hashimoto mentioned there's a Geary BRT meeting coming up with Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on September 18th at one South Van Ness Avenue.

She also commented that the Buchanan YMCA will have their annual Sentimental Journey on Saturday, October 20th. Richard Hashimoto informed everyone that raffle tickets can also be purchased for prizes.

Jon Osaki announced the SF Aloha Run coming up on September 23rd, and half of what is being raised will be set aside for college scholarships dedicated to low income youth.

Tomo Hirai mentioned the Day of Giving Mochiko Chicken Bento fundraiser on September 3rd and an Angel Island Pilgrimage on October 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th, 2018.