



# JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

## NOTES FROM THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE JACL BUILDING, 1765 SUTTER STREET MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019

### BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Kenta Takamori, Judy Hamaguchi, Alice Kawahatsu, Rosalyn Tonai

### STAFF PRESENT:

None

### OTHERS PRESENT:

None

The meeting began at 6:07 p.m.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BIKE SHARE – Kenta reported on the results of a committee survey in response to the question: Do you recommend that JTF support of installation at least one station?

4 Nos, 1 yes, 4 yes trial station, 1 unable to decide. Of the 10, 5 were yes, 4 were no and 1 undecided.

Kenta thought that it would be a resounding no but its not. Kenta and Glynis will communicate back with SMTA and Lyft that committee position is currently inconclusive and check on status of requested data (evidence of positive economic impact experienced in other neighborhoods, etc). There are also clarifying questions about sidewalk and hills, etc. The priority will be to stay in communication and keep on top of timeline and are not surprised.

Alice asked whether or not NLF has been asked or JCCCNC or Super Mira has been made aware of the Buchanan location. Kenta said we need to decide if some voices are more important than others, like merchants, organizations, etc. There is an obligation for due diligence and to listen to all voices. Alice recommended that we reach out to them. Alice noted that Japanese speaking population should be included.

Glynis said if there is time, we should consider polling the community about bikeshare, not focus on locations. It would contribute to larger transportation picture. Kenta wants to push conversation back and not focus on location.

Judy said she thinks its obvious that the community doesn't want it. There's a reason why this has been going on for 18 months. Kenta said he thinks its our responsibility to be fair. Glynis said that she doesn't think we have an accurate understanding of our diverse community, that would take a lot of time. She hopes that SFMTA and Lyft will

not put timeline pressure on us so that a more holistic understanding can be reached as part of a larger transportation understanding.

Alice mentioned that JCBD is spearheading Economic Development Group and they will be looking at visitor data and transportation information etc. Meeting is happening on the 18<sup>th</sup>. They are focused on marketing and coordinating events, etc. Judy said that there's a master calendar that JCCCNC maintains and organizations meet at beginning of year.

Glynis pointed out that bikeshare is a very disruptive and complex and ever evolving issue and if we have the gift of time, it is an advantage to wait. Geary will also have impacts to patterns that we don't yet understand.

PEACE PLAZA – Alice said that there will be an HPC hearing where Michael DeGregorio will be presenting. Glynis asked if there was discussion at the meeting about cost estimate concerns. Alice said there was concern about it being too low. Kenta wanted to know what is SFMTA's contribution to the budget.

1710 OCTAVIA/BCA BUILDING – Glynis reported that the coalition of BCA temples voted to support BCA looking to lease or sell the building to organizations or partners aligned with BCSF goals, including BCSF. BCSF will be looking into long term planning and assessing the existing building conditions.

COMMITTEE INITIATIVES – Kenta and Glynis have been discussing looking at long term projects related to land use, transportation, etc. That could take the form of getting a professional transportation study, etc. Kenta said JCHESS would be a starting point.

Judy mentioned that JCBD is taking a lot of responsibilities and it seems like LU/T has to figure out what its role is. Glynis pointed out that JCBD is representing property owners of a specific part of Japantown. While there is overlap and a need for coordination, there are larger issues relevant to JTF. JTF is also representative of a larger and more diverse community. There may even be issues in the future where property owners and merchants do not see eye to eye. Long term planning is necessary so that Jtown isn't reacting all the time. Judy said she doesn't feel there is a lot of coordination happening between JCBD and LU/T.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

WIRELESS FACILITIES – Glynis reported that Steve Nakajo and Richard Hashimoto forwarded final notices for wireless facilities in the city and indicated that one will be going up at Sutter and Buchanan (1788 Sutter). Glynis reached out to Public Works to understand the protocols related to installation of wireless facilities and the status of

the site in Japantown. She reported that notices were posted and sent to organizations, merchants, residences, etc. including JTF and Merchants Association allowing 28 days for protest. There were no protests reported. Final approval is expected shortly.

Glynis noted that according to Richard Hashimoto the merchants are not opposed to the facility. Alice said that there was another wireless pole that went up in Japantown and no one seems to mind. She is not opposed to it. Kenta has no concerns. Glynis said Richard and Steve Nakajo may be opposed to them, but given that no one else is opposed, especially no one near the proposed site, it didn't make sense to oppose it.

SMALL BUSINESS STREAMLINING LEGISLATION – Glynis reported that Nikki Yoshikawa shared info about Flexible Use. She will reach out to Juan Carlos to see if he can attend the next meeting to provide an overview.

SB 50 – Glynis shared that Wiener's legislation, a new version of last year's SB 827, made it out of committee. The proposed bill would provide developers with height bonuses and potentially approval shortcuts, for housing built near rail and bus transit. Wiener has been building a strong coalition of support. Supervisor Mar is leading opposition. It is supported by Supervisor Brown and Mayor Breed. There was discussion about what the details of the proposed legislation was.

Kenta will look into it and convene group of people to study it. Alice requested links to sources of info to learn more about it.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Alice reported on the upcoming performances co-presented by First Voice and JTF during both weekends of the Cherry Blossom Festival featuring Mas Koga, Akira Tana, Mark Izu, and SF BATCO.

Jeff Adachi's celebration is April 27 at JCCCNC 2-4 pm. There will be food and a bar. Speakers and videos and some entertainment.

SF JACL is doing a Minedonka Swing Band May 17 at the Presidio as part of the Then They Came For Me exhibit.

NJAHS annual Event May 4<sup>th</sup> Dinner. Layne Nishikawa will preview his new film. Near bowling alley. MC is Janet Katsuyama.

The next meeting will be May 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Union Bank Community Room.