

JTF/JCHESS Organizing Committee Joint Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Union Bank Community Room

Minutes

Following are highlights of the Japantown Task Force (JTF) / Japantown Organizing Committee (JOC) Joint Meeting held on Wed Nov 6, 2013 at Union Bank Hospitality Room.

Attendees: Bob Hamaguchi, Robert Sakai, Diane Matsuda, Greg Marutani, Sandy Mori, Mary Ishisaki, Steve Nakajo, Greg Vilorio, Chikara Ushiki, Seiko Fujimoto, Glynis Nakahara, Ben Kobashigawa, Michiko Yamada, Robert Rusky, Karen Kai, Paul Wermer, Tomo Hirai, Mark Moriguchi, Lois/Bernie Choden, Rose Hillson

The meeting was opened by Bob and Sandy with an introduction of the JCHESS Implementation handout (attached) that included general thoughts and a proposal to begin implementation with the joining of the JTF and the JOC.

A. JCHESS Implementation

General Thoughts

- * With the endorsement of JCHESS, moving forward to implement the community-responsible recommendations needs to get underway.
- * There needs to be a 501c3 organization to manage the implementation. Fundraising for 2014-15 needs to begin immediately. The most logical and immediate source are the relevant City agencies. The City budget process for fiscal 2014-15 will begin in December.
- * We need to have an organization to organize a request, lead the presentation, and be the 501c3 to receive the money.
- * We need fewer organizations in Japantown, not more.
- * There is no organization in Japantown today that fits all the JCHESS recommendations.
- * We need to make some organizational changes quickly to signal that the community takes the JCHESS implementation seriously.

A Proposal for Discussion

We should use the JTF corporate 501c3 status. Establish a new JTF. New Name; New Board; and Restructure Staff.

Begin monthly joint meetings of the JOC (and reps of the organizations) and JTF Board for not to exceed Jun 30, 2014. Staff and JTF Board are Interim status and need to stay in place until at least Jun 30, 2014 to execute the current grant-funded programs:

- JEDM (Marketing Plan, Business Watch Group, website redesign, brochures, banners)
- Small Business Assistance Program

- Community Projects (cleanups / tree plantings / maintenance projects)
- Advocacy Issues (Geary BRT, 1481, SUD Enforcement, etc.)

TOGETHER, by June 30, 2014

- Decide on the corporate purposes and activities, i.e. scope of New JTF, what organizations should implement what JCHESS recommendations,
- Decide on the changes needed to the JTF Mission, By Laws.
- Decide on the board purview, decision process, composition and process of selection of board members,
- Decide on staff needs and develop a three-year operating budget,
- Decide the name of the organization.
- Decide the funding sources and get proposals done for 2014-15 and beyond.

Summary of general comments

- JTF Board is open to change and morph into a new organization to implement the JCHESS
- There was mixed opinions of changing the name because of the name recognition and funding from the City while others felt a new name necessary considering old JTF legacy issues within the community. Current JTF staff must be kept in place during the transition and beyond
- Size of Board: Some like a small board; nimble, decisive, focused. Some like larger: more inclusive and representative of the community, broadness to break into subcommittees via subject matter expertise; Many feel the JCHESS Organizing Committee has been a good example of that ability to get a large cross-section group to get work done; size may be determined by responsibilities of the new org.
- Roles of Board: Board composition is key; implementation roles, process for board selection, and determining function of organization and priorities are important.
- THERE WAS CONCURRENCE WITH THE PROPOSAL. Those present volunteered to move forward to begin working on the deliverables. All addressees are encouraged to join the volunteer working group.
- We must all encourage greater attendance at the monthly meetings. If no greater participation, this volunteer working group will complete the deliverables and outreach to community organizations.

B. JCHESS Recommendations Priority Exercise (Greg Vilorio)

To assist in the planning/budgeting for a new implementation organization, there needs to be a prioritization of the 19 JCHESS Recommendations. The attendees were asked to place dots on the recommendations that they considered key priorities. IF YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT ANY OF THESE, PLEASE EMAIL US. The results are as follows:

15. Create a Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District.....	14
8. Create a Japantown Community Land Trust.	11
1. Utilize tools for presentation of historic buildings and structures.....	10
9. Implement Invest in Neighborhoods Program.....	10
16. Create Japantown design guidelines.	9
5. Implement proposed transportation improvements.....	7
(Comment: Geary BRT design important to Japan Center)	
17. Implement improvements to Peace Plaza.....	7
...10. Negotiate benefits agreements with major new developments.....	6
(Comment: Watch out for Post Street hi-rise!)	
18. Implement improvements to Buchanan Mall.....	6
2. Leverage the Japantown Special Use District to cultivate and attract new businesses appropriate to Japantown.	5
19. Develop a strategic plan for the Japan Center Malls.....	5

- 3. Utilize the City's design guidelines.....0
-4. Implement streetscape and pedestrian improvements per the Better Streets plan.
.....1
- 6. Market the neighborhood through SF Travel.....1
- 11. Create a Japantown Community Benefit District.....1
- 12. Implement a Japantown Mello-Roos Community Facilities District.....1
- 7. Create a Japantown Community Development Corporation.....0
- 13. Utilize funds from San Francisco Grants for the Arts.....0
- (Comment: If funds are available we should encourage and assist community groups to apply for
and use them for the community.)
- 14. Utilize Japan Center Garage Capital Improvement Funds.....0

The next joint meetings will be held **Wed Nov 20 and Wed Dec 18**, 6:00 to 8:00 at location to be announced.

Bob