

# JTF/JCHESS Organizing Committee Joint Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

## JACL

## Minutes

---

Following are highlights of the Japantown Task Force (JTF) / Japantown Organizing Committee (JOC) Joint Meeting held on Wed Nov 20, 2013 at Union Bank Hospitality Room.

Attendees: Bob Hamaguchi, Robert Sakai, Greg Marutani, Greg Vioria, Glynis Nakahara, Robert Rusky, Karen Kai, Paul Wermer, Tomo Hirai, Mark Moriguchi, Bernie Choden, Kathie Cheatham, Thomas Bier, Ken Kaji, Richard Matsuno, Marlayne Morgan, Hiroshi Fukuda, Ros Tonai

A. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee

- Jim Meisner has served on the Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee representing Japantown. Jim and his family have purchased a home in Pacifica. No longer being a resident of SF he has resigned from the CAC. We greatly appreciate his past service on our behalf. Supervisor Breed has asked us to nominate a replacement for Jim. **Please let me know if you have someone you would like to nominate to the CAC.**

B. 1481 Post Street

- Marlayne Morgan (Cathedral Hill Homeowners Assn.) updated us on the 1481 Post Street proposed 416 ft high-rise condominium project.

- This is the first major high-rise west of Van Ness; therefore, it is precedent setting.
- First hearing critique of EIR by Mar 31.
- First hearing on EIR expected in Sep.
- There will be different public meetings held by different groups over the next several months.
- There are differences of opinions in Jtown on this project. There are some that oppose any high-rise here, and there are likely others that will support a building if there are appropriate community benefits.
- All buildings over 80 ft, require Conditional Use (PC approvals), and those that are designed within zoning will likely get approved. This is on a 240 ft zoned property.

C. 1700 Post Street

- At Buchanan/Post there is a basement location being converted from a karaoke bar to a cafe. An application for Change of Use was in process. Construction is underway.

- Steve Wertheim (Planning Department) tells us that the department had not given proper instructions on the the notice requirement. Notice was never posted. He will get proper notice to be made by applicant.

- The space is 2400 SF and not a formula-retail. Applicant is a local entity called Hush Cafe. The change is from restaurant to limited restaurant. This is a Permitted change and will not be requiring Conditional Use approval. Need to confirm this use would not allow alcoholic beverage sales.

D. Reorganization Discussion

- Does the JTF stay as it is today until the end of June? Yes, JTF has contracts in place until June 30 and funding integrity will be maintained. All staff, board will remain in place. The changes this committee comes up will not be implemented until Jun 30.
- Meetings have been requested with Planning, MOED, and Supervisor to discuss the operating funding needs for the new JTF.
- Point of clarification: The statement in the proposal for discussion that "we need fewer organizations in Jtown" needs to be clarified to mean we don't need another organization for the implementation for JCHESS. New organizations are encouraged to further new initiatives and programs that aren't duplicated elsewhere.

E. Group Discussion: What organizations in Jtown should administer which JCHESS recommendations?

- The purpose of the question is to help size the new JTF staffing and budget. No sense in duplicating staff or purpose if in place elsewhere.
- Recommendations:
  - \* Implement Improvements to Buchanan Mall - Nihonmachi Parking Corporation
  - \* Market the neighborhood through SF Travel - Japantown Merchants Association
  - \* Utilize the Japan Center Garage Capital Improvement Funds - Japan Center Garage Corporation
  - \* Utilize tools for preservation of buildings and structures - NJAHS

Other discussion recommendations:

- \* What organizations need to be represented on the JTF Board?
- \* Determine recipient for community benefits from Developer Agreements - Japantown Foundation? Must be seen as fair and transparent. 1481 will be the first test case.
- \* JCCCNC has to be represented in this board.

F. **Next Meeting: Wed Dec 18 6:00 to 8:00 Union Bank Hospitality Room.**