

**JTF Board Meeting
May 24, 2004 @ 6:00 p.m.
1765 Sutter St.
Minutes**

Attendees: Scott Belser, Caryl Ito, Mark Moriguchi, Tak Matsuba, Sandy Mori (Advisory), Kathy Reyes (Advisory)

Guests: Jing Bentley, Michael, Sachi, Noah and Luca Gowe, Young Kim, Sachiko Kotani, Mark Miyake, Tys Sniffen, Tetsuya Yoshida, David Silverman, Toby Leavy, Doug Shaw, Dan Daily, Harriet Starkes

Excused Absences: Rosalyn Tonai, David Ishida, Jeff Mori, Benh Nakajo

Absent: Bob Otsuka, Pat Shiono, Doug Dawkins

- A. **Recognition of a Quorum**
- B. **Approval of Minutes: Meeting of April 26, 2004**
- C. **Presentation of Proposal to Develop 28 Residential Units at 1521 Sutter Street (David Silverman, Reuben and Junius, LLP)**
 - I. David Silverman, neighborhood resident of 50 years, assured that quality and success would be the goals of the proposal to develop 28 residential units at 1521 Sutter Street. After partnering up with Dan Daily, Silverman brought in a few specialists including a Feng Shui expert, architect Toby Leavy, and Doug Shaw who is a realtor from Pacific Union who will advise them on to what people want while balancing what will sell.

The building will be a five-story complex that has 4 levels above the parking level, which includes 14 – 2 bed, 2 bath units. The building will feature a courtyard design which is aiming at giving each unit more than one window per room and optimizing the amount of sunlight that will hit the building restricted by its 13 story backyard neighbor. The 28 units will be manageable for those tenants that are “starter families” or “ending families,” but do not cater to those who are looking for a family of 4 or more.
- D. **Q & A For Certificate Holders**
 - I. Harriet Starkes of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, RDA attended the meeting to answer any questions that the board members and guests may have concerning the certificate holders that were displaced from the Western Addition as well as the Japantown during the late 1970's. In the city there are approximately 800 who are active on the mailing list of the SF RDA. Of these 800, 400 were those of the Western Addition. Residents of A status, heads of the household

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

receive priority over those who were C status, those living in the house, but were not the head of the household.

2. The certificate holders are entitled to have priority when applying to get a house in the Western Addition or Japantown. In order to be approved for a loan to get the housing, one must have assets or income that is within the guidelines, both above and below the requirements. Failure to fall within these guidelines when applying for a loan would deny application.

E. Chair's Report

I. New Board Members

Michael Gowe, Sandy Mori, and Tetsuya Yoshida were introduced at the meeting. Voting on these members will be done via email.

II. Budget Update

An anonymous donor gave us \$5,000 – to bridge and founding gap between contracts due to the delay in the SB-307 contract.

III. Vacation Accrual Policy

The vacation accrual policy currently has a limit of 280 hours of vacation time that can be accrued per worker. The old policy also has a “use it or lose it” rule that once you reach the 280 hour limit, anything over that point would be lost. The new policy is being proposed at restricting the amount of hours any worker can accrue up to is 80 It is hard for Linda to take time off. Linda has talked and proposed that she can accrue up to 160 hours so that she will not lose time she has earned.

The board of directors will be polled via email regarding the vacation accrual policy.

F. Director's Report

I. SB 307 Update

Japantown Task Force will designate a specific SB 307 committee. There were delays (on the City-side) effectuating the contract. The first draft of the report is due this September on the contract schedule. Linda is writing a draft report.

There will be 4 broad based community meetings to obtain input and review for the SB 307 Cultural Preservation Report. Although the contract has been delayed RDA is allowing back invoicing back to April 22 of this year. We have been operating without SB-307 funding up to this point in the fiscal year.

II. Signage Update

We are requesting that Mayor Newsom attend the unveiling for the signage debut. We should hear from his office in about 4 weeks.

III. Staffing Update

Darryl Abantao has been hired as an intern recently taking over Ernie Yoshikawa's position. Young Kim also is going to be a new intern; he is a bi-

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

lingual English/Korean student from Washington State. He is currently a student at UC Berkley and is a Asian American Studies and Business major. Young will be starting June 10, 2004.

IV. Funding Update

The Neighborhood Beautification Fund gave out more money than they had to disperse. Therefore funding for the next fiscal year is questionable. DPW Director, Ed Lee is assigned to the Keep Jtown Clean program. The San Francisco Foundation invited the Task Force to apply for fundraising (\$10,000). Linda will write the proposal.

Proposals are due in the first two weeks of June to the Metropolitan Transit Commission to do community input planning and various other things for a grants up to \$75,000. At the last board meeting, Tilly Chang, MTC Planning Manager presented information regarding the Geary corridor.

G. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

None

2. Business and Economic Development Committee

The Japantown Merchants Association is struggling to collect dues from local merchants. The costs for security have escalated. Thus, leaving less money in the budget for supporting festivals and events that bring business to Japantown. The Japantown Merchants Association agreed to explore establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) with the Task Force in Japantown that would be managed by Japantown's Merchants Association.

3. Health and Safety Committee

Japantown's safety is getting better. We would like to have a welcoming party for Heather Fong. We want to reintroduce Heather to the community and emphasize more community policing of Japantown.

4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee

Updates on future plans of the SB-307 bill.

5. Communications and Marketing Committee

August *In Flight* issue. Talked to the general manager at American Airlines and there will be flights to Honolulu. This will be an addition to the current flights from Japan Air Lines (JAL) and United.

H. Other

Michael Miyake and Jing Bentley introduced their new business in Japantown – Super 7 (a magazine and toy gallery) located on Post Street in the old bait shop.

Next board meeting Monday June 28, 2004 at 6p.m.