

japantown task force, inc.  
a planning, preservation, and development organization

**JTF Board Meeting  
June 28, 2004 @ 6:00 p.m.  
1765 Sutter St.  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Michael Gowe, David Ishida, Caryl Ito, Tak Matsuba, Benh Nakajo, Kathy Reyes, Rosalyn Tonai, Tetsuya Yoshida

**Staff:** Darryl Abantao, Linda Jofuku, Young Kim

**Guests:** John Gallagher, Miki Heitzman, Rich Hashimoto, Kiyo Kanamori, Don Langley, Greg Marutani, Cynthia Tsuchimoto

**Excused Absences:** Seiko Fujimoto, Jeff Mori, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi

**Absent:** Bob Otsuka, Pat Shiono

**A. Recognition of Quorum:**

**B. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of May 24, 2004**

**C. Permits for Liquor License – John Gallagher, Permits Officer SFPD**

Lately there have been instances of vandalism and small groups of young adults that have been causing a ruckus on the streets late at night. Some examples of vandalism that has been occurring late at night include defoliation of the cherry trees located in the Buchanan Mall, cement waste cans and ashtrays have been knocked over, and the Buchanan Mall area has been filled with more trash and human vomit.

John Gallagher, Permits Officer for the San Francisco Police Department was a guest at the meeting to work with the community to resolve some of these problems. Sergeant Leon Lowe patrols the community late at night, but he is not solely designated to Japantown so he cannot keep watch the whole time. There were problems (vandalism and disturbing the peace) associated with public intoxication that occurred during the hours of 1 a.m. to 3 a.m., however the time frame where problems occur has expanded to 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Some suggestions that are being pondered are to: 1) have a meeting of all of the establishments that have liquor licenses and that remain open later in the evening through the hours of concern; 2) bolting the cement ashtrays down so they cannot be tipped over; 3) night clubs who serve alcohol would either need to pay for armed guards to patrol the streets and janitorial service hose the sidewalks clean at 6 a.m. within a 50 foot radius of their businesses.

**D. Chair's Report:**

1. New Members on the Board of Directors  
Michael Gowe, Sandy Mori, and Tetsuya Yoshida were officially introduced as new members on the Board of Directors. Voting was done via email.

**E. Director's Report:**

1. Signage Update
  - i. Unveiling on August 5, 2004 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Peace Plaza

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On Thursday, August 5, 2004 @ 12:30 p.m. the Japantown Task Force will be having an unveiling of new signs to be posted on the streets of Japantown located in the Peace Plaza. The street signs will include the street name in Katakana and English.

2. SB307 Update
  - i. Categories for the SB307 are now being formed and beginning to be more specific to the community. Input from everyone will help Darryl and Young to note what is important to be preserved for the community. The project is an extension of traditional and contemporary venues, Japanese pop culture, programs, festivals, events, buildings, structures and artifacts.
3. Budget
  - i. The budget for this fiscal year needs to be approved and is located in the packet that was distributed at the meeting.

## **F. Committee Reports:**

1. Business and Economic Development Committee

Tak Matsuba and Linda attended a business improvement district (BID) meeting with the Japantown Merchants Association that could help Japantown. The businesses and organizations of the community would self govern themselves and establish their own equitable assessment structure that would allow them to provide the same level of services, if not more than they do now (e.g. security, maintenance, festivals and events)
2. Health and Safety Committee

A meeting is in the planning stages to address current issues such as the vandalism and late night problems that have been occurring in the Buchanan Mall.
3. Personnel Committee Evaluation

Survey forms for Linda were passed out for evaluation of Linda.

## **G. Other Business and Announcements:**

Miki Heitzman and Cynthia Tsuchimoto of “xperience” were guests of the meeting introducing themselves to the community and inform the members of the bilingual Japanese language and technology program for middle school students they will be offering at 1830 Sutter Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.