

**JTF Board Meeting**  
**January 24 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**1765 Sutter St.**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Tak Matsuba, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Rosalyn Tonai

**Staff:** Linda Jofuku, Young Kim, Misako Mori

**Guests:** Nicole Franklin, Richard Hashimoto, Sumi Honnami, Yo Hironaka, Don Langley, Greg Marutani, Ross Mirkarimi (Supervisor District 5), Steve Nakajo, Mario Oliveros, Kathy Reyes, J.K. Yamamoto

**Excused Absences:** Benh Nakajo, Michael Gowe, Tetsuya Yoshida

**Absent:**

**A. Recognition of Quorum**

**B. Introduction of Nicole Franklin Project Manager, SFRA Western Addition A-2**

1. Nicole Franklin is the replacement to Shirley Wysinger. She is also the staff person the Western Addition A-2 Citizens Advisory Committee that includes Jeff Mori and Chris Hirano who are representing Japantown.

**C. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of November 22, 2004**

1. Tak pointed out that he was absent from the last meeting so his name should be removed from the list of attendees.
2. Scott made the motion to approve the minutes and Rosalyn seconded with a unanimous vote approving the minutes.

**D. Chair's Report:**

1. Asian Pacific American Month Celebration

The City of San Francisco is working to highlight the entire month of May as Asian Pacific American Month. They are trying to have a kick off celebration showcasing all the different communities on May 2 from 5:30-7:30 in City Hall. The reception would include food and entertainment from various Asian American groups. There will also be a display in City Hall from different Asian American groups in San Francisco. The City would also like to create a master calendar that would have the schedule of events from all the different Asian communities.

Sandy opened the discussion up to the public regarding actions JTF should take in involvement with event. Suggestions were made for the National Japanese American Historical Society to use an already made exhibit to put in City Hall.

JTF agreed to create a calendar of events for Japantown that can be submitted to a master calendar through its website.

2. Introduction of Ross Mirkarimi District 5 Supervisor

Ross Mirkarimi introduced himself to everyone and said he is still getting adjusted to his new position. His plan is to connect communities and create a Community Congress so that the neighborhoods can take care of business. He also briefly discussed his plastic bag plan, to reduce the amount of plastic bags being used with the help of the plastics industry and grocery commissions.

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Linda asked that our community not be ignored as it has been in the past, especially with the Geary corridor and the leaking Peace Plaza. He encouraged our community to use him as a pipeline to other government entities.

3. Update: Nicole Franklin on the Tower Structure at Post & Buchanan (Denny's Restaurant)  
The scaffold must stay up until the tower comes down. The tower and the Nihonmachi Signage on the tower has been deemed "architecturally significant" and therefore must be rebuilt in the same form. The tower signage will have functional lighting. The structure is dry-rotted and is a threat to health and safety. The dismantling process will move forward.

## E. Director's Report:

1. SB307 Update  
The report was turned in on schedule and continues to be updated. The next printing will include an updated matrix and new data sheets. It will also include the SF Foundation and Haas, Jr. Fund as supporters.
2. Meeting with Mary McCue & Rich Hashimoto regarding exploration of a Business Improvement District (BID)  
Linda will meet with Mary McCue and Rich Hashimoto on February 3 at 1pm. They will discuss how to allocate resources for outreach in Japantown. In addition there is plenty of information regarding BIDs that JTF has and can provide for people who are interested.
3. Geary Boulevard – Tree replacement and Lighting (between Laguna and Webster Streets)  
There is a tree that blocks the visibility of the parking garage. The garage would like to remove the large trees and replace them with smaller culturally specific trees. In addition, more lights are needed on that side of the street.
4. Staff Changes  
Young Kim will no longer be working at JTF due to a heavier school load.

## F. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee  
No Report
2. Business and Economic Development Committee  
No Report
3. Health and Safety Committee  
No Report
4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee  
No Report
5. Action Item-Communications & Marketing Committee – Book proposal, Arcadia Publishing  
The committee decided to work with other groups to gather pictures. Linda spoke to Bill Wong, author of Oakland's Chinatown book and he offered to help by sitting on a planning and review panel. His main concern is that the book is a lot of work to do alone. Arcadia Publishing has given Japantown until July to complete the book. Linda asked if the board would like to go ahead with the project.

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Sandy asked for a motion to approve continuing the project. Tak Matsuba made a motion and Scott Belser seconded. The board voted unanimously to move forward with the book project and work with other historical groups such as NJAHS, the National Japanese American Library, and the SF Benevolent Society. All of these groups have access to historical photos.

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

- I. Former SF Poet Laureate, Janice Mirikitani wrote a poem for the 3 Japantowns Monument and would like community approval of the poem before it is applied to the piece. Copies of the poem were handed out. A public hearing will be held.

## **H. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.**