

**JTF Board Meeting
February 28, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.
1765 Sutter St.
Minutes**

Attendees: Michael Gowe, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori, Benh Nakajo, Tetsuya Yoshida

Staff: Linda Jofuku, Darryl Abantao

Guests: Tilly Chang, Suany Chough, Nicole Franklin, Julie Kirschbaum, Don Langley

Excused Absences: Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Mark Moriguchi, Tak Matsuba

Absent: Seiko Fujimoto, Rosalyn Tonai

A. Recognition of Quorum

B. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of January 24, 2005

C. Chair's Report:

1. Ross Mirkarimi, District 5 Supervisor's aide, Cheryl Brodie
Due to an emergency at City Hall, Cheryl Brodie was unable to attend this meeting.
2. Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration Committee
Japantown is invited to the citywide committee monthly meetings at City Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be a special section in the Pink Section of the Sunday newspaper for the month of May. There is a request for a boy and girl to be dressed in ethnic attire to be part of a group picture in front of City Hall. There will be different Asian arts and crafts displayed in the State building and City Hall in May.
3. Geary Corridor Update
 - a. Introduce Transit Authority Staff- Tilly Chang, Julie Kirschbaum, and Suany Chough-BRT Study
Tilly Chang, Suany Chough and Julie Kirschbaum distributed a fact sheet, timeline for expected tasks and a map of each section of the Geary Corridor Project. The project is developing community workshops and technology assessment. The third series of workshops are in progress with an informational flier written in Japanese. There is still a need for Korean translation. There was discussion of the funding and technology concerns for the project and how the project could be "light rail ready." then.

D. Director's Report:

1. Arcadia Publishing Contract
 - a. Lucy Kishiue, consultant hired as Project Manager for book project
Linda has signed the contract for the Arcadia Publishing book project. Lucy Kishiue, part-time consultant for the National Japanese American Citizens League has been hired to be project manager and friend, Bill Wong, former Oakland Tribune editor has also joined the team to help out with the project since he just completed the Oakland Chinatown Arcadia book. Lucy is currently working on photo release forms, outreach release, and press release. The final production will be due July 1, 2005. We have a head start on the project with the completion of Senate Bill 307.

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2. Second Printing of SB307 Report

Since our draft was submitted to the State, we've had an enormous amount of requests for copies of the report; however, the cost to print and bind the draft is very expensive. Nicole Franklin said that she would help fund copies to be distributed throughout the Western Addition. With the next printing of the report, we will distribute more copies to those who helped fund the project and those who have contributed. We will submit a press release to the Hokubei and Nichibeitimes to thank all those who contributed and spent time to work on the data sheets with our interns.

3. Cherry Blossom Festival - Information Table April 16 & 17

The Japantown Task Force will be having an information booth on the first weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival. Signup sheets to volunteer was passed around to give everyone prior notice and will be passed around again at next months meeting.

4. Japan Center Garage Corp. Contract FY 2005-2006 Approved

The Japan Center Garage Corporation has approved the \$85,000 budget for fiscal year 2005-2006. The 5-year contract (\$100,000 per annum) has decreased each year due to the decreasing City budget and parking revenue.

5. Meeting at JCCCNC on February 15, 2005 regarding Janice Mirikitani's poem for the landmark

On February 15 at JCCCNC, Sandy and Linda attended a meeting where Janice Mirikitani explained her poem in depth for the landmark. The poem was distributed with two minor changes that had been discussed or made. The first was that the word soil was changed to earth and the term sojourner was retained. There was confusion about the term "we" and "I" where the author was referring to the person reading the poem versus the author of the poem reading it. The poem is meant to apply to all of those who contribute to the community and Japantown. The letters will be etched in a three-dimensional matter so it will be sticking out. The location is still not official.

6. Meeting with Mary McCue and Richard Hashimoto and Linda Jofuku about BID Outreach.

Education and outreach for the Business Improvement District must be multilingual in Japanese and Korean. Translators would need to be provided for BID outreach. Mary McCue is willing to pay \$50 per hour for translation services, \$200 for the rent of a meeting space, and the direct cost of printing and phone fees.

E. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee

None

2. Business and Economic Development Committee

a. Meeting with Park and Recreation – Tea House, Gift Shop, Parking Lot Concession
Doug Dawkins, Hats Aizawa, Tak Matsuba and Linda Jofuku met with San Francisco Parks and Recreation representative Kathleen Diohep on February 17. Doug Dawkins and Tak Matsuba wanted to require bidders to have an established tie with the Japantown community with regard to the Japanese tea ceremony before the Request for

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Qualifications (RFQ) is released. There have been inappropriate and offensive merchandise for sale at the Gift Shop with the immediate past proprietor.

3. Health and Safety Committee

None

4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee

None

5. Communications & Marketing Committee

According to Sandy Mori, there has been a vocal concern amongst some of the merchants and how the media has displayed Japantown recently. They would like to have a press release done by JTF instead of outside reporters coming to Japantown and reporting incorrect information to the public.

F. Other Business and Announcements:

1. San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival
2. Our next meeting will be on March 28, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

H. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.