

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

**JTF Board Meeting  
April 25, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.  
1765 Sutter St.  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai,

**Staff:** Linda Jofuku, Darryl Abantao

**Guests:** Nicole Franklin, Lucy Kishiue, Don Langley, Christina Padilla

**Excused Absences:** Scott Belser

**Absent:** Seiko Fujimoto, Doug Dawkins, Michael GoweTak Matsuba, Tetsuya Yoshida

## **A. Recognition of Quorum**

## **B. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of March 28, 2005**

## **C. Chair's Report:**

### **1. Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration Committee**

On May 2, 2005 Darryl, Linda and Misako attended the kickoff for the month of May celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month at City Hall. The celebration included ethnic performances and food from various Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Vietnamese and South East Asian communities. On Thursday, May 12 there was an event at Nordstrom to celebrate the Asian American Women that have made notable contributions to their respective communities, with Sandy Mori included as one of those honorees.

### **2. 2006 Japantown Centennial Celebration Update**

There was discussion that the co-chairs of the group be expanded for the 2006 Japantown Centennial Celebration. Some key points that need to be addressed is a suggestion as to who should JTF promote to expand the co-chairs to and if there would be expansion for the honorary committee for example the business community, commissioners and department heads.

## **D. Director's Report:**

### **1. Asian Pacific Heritage Festival**

Christine Padilla, Program Director of the Asian Heritage Street Celebration was a guest at the meeting who passed out information regarding the event as well as invited us to participate in the festival as a non-profit information table at the festival. There will be 30-community information booths will be provided a table and tent where they will be allowed to sell non-food merchandise items. There will also be a contest for the information booth that is the most interesting with a cash and dinner prize.

### **2. Book Project Update: Lucy Kishiue, Project Manager**

Lucy Kishiue, Project Manager of the Arcadia Publishing book project was a guest at the meeting. She reported that there has been two meetings with the book committee and has recently visited sources for pictures including the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Bancroft Library, and Hagiwara, Aizawa, and Honnami family collections. The first deadline for this project is the photo cover. A possible picture for the cover is the Taru Mikoshi Shrine in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

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## 3. Cherry Blossom Festival:

A big Thank You! to the staff (Scott Belser, Caryl Ito, Rob Nakamura, Sandy Mori, Misako Mori) that helped at the information table at the Cherry Blossom Festival. The visitors bureau did a great job helping attract patrons to the festival, but accidentally used the JTF office number as a contact number for questions. This turned out to be a positive thing for the festival since there was always staff ready to answer basic questions about time and location for both weekends. Benh, a Cherry Blossom Chair thanked the staff for doing a superb job.

## 4. DPW Clean Up Day – April 9, 2005, 9 a.m. @ Peace Plaza – A Big Success!

Robert Nagano has been actively cleaning the Peace Plaza as a city volunteer and was recognized at this event with a framed certificate and celebration Ross Mirkarimi, District 5 Supervisor, Ed Lee, DPW Director Daniel Homsey of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and Steve Nakajo, SF Fire Commissioner. There were more than 150 students from George Washington High School that came to support our event. Ed Lee and the Board of Supervisors said that if these students came out to volunteer a minimum of 3 times, they would write a letter of recommendation for those students to aid them in scholarships and college applications.

## 5. Meeting with Dean Macris, Ken Rich and Marcia Rosen

There is a meeting scheduled on May 4, 2005 with Dean Macris, Ken Rich and Marcia Rosen to Integrate the Japantown Concepts and Community Plan and SB-307 Report Findings and Next Steps with Department Work Plans.

## 6. Geary Boulevard Tree Replacement: Cherry Trees

Linda went to a tree hearing with Richard Hashimoto regarding trees that were blocking a light and sign on Geary Blvd. Those sites have been removed and are now paved over. With the Concepts plan and SB307 Report, Linda and Rich have a budget to purchase 150 culturally specific trees.

## 7. NBF Proposal

The Neighborhood Beautification Fund proposal was accepted and approved which will be used for banners, Litterhawk expenses and community outreach.

## **E. Committee Reports:**

### 1. Finance Committee

None

### 2. Business and Economic Development Committee

None

### 3. Health and Safety Committee

None

### 4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee

Rosalyn would like to set up a meeting with the book committee.

### 5. Communications & Marketing Committee

None

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