

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting June 27, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m. 1765 Sutter St. Minutes

Attendees: Scott Belser, Michael Gowe, Caryl Ito, Tak Matsuba, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Mark Moriguchi, Rosalyn Tonai, Tetsuya Yoshida

Staff: Linda Jofuku, Darryl Abantao, Misako Mori

Guests: Gaynell Armstrong, Nicole Franklin, Seiji Horibuchi, Sachiko Kotani, Don Langley, Chris Leishman, J.K. Yamamoto

Excused Absences:

Absent: Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Benh Nakajo

A. Recognition of Quorum

B. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of May 23, 2005

C. Chair's Report:

1. Hokubei Mainichi Building- Introduction of Mr. Seiji Horibuchi (President of VIZ media) and Mr. Douglas Tom (Architect), by Allen Okamoto
 - a. Mr. Horibuchi and VIZ media founded by Shogakan, one of the largest Japanese Publishing Companies, just purchased the 1746 Post Street site, which will be called the J-Pop Center. A proposal packet for the Hokubei Mainichi site was shared and distributed to the group. Mr. Horibuchi explained his company and then Mr. Tom talked about the plans for the building.
 - b. Allen Okamoto added that the building must be torn town. In addition a meeting with the SF Art Commission Design Review Committee will be held on July 18 to review the Buchanan Mall.
2. Executive Director's Evaluation
 - a. A personnel evaluation of the executive director is in process.
3. Introduction of Gaynell Armstrong, the new San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Project Manager of Western Addition A-2.
 - a. Gaynell has been with SFRDA for 9 years. She is taking over Nicole Franklin's position. Previously she was located in the South East Sector of SF in the Bay View. She is committed to working closely with the community.
 - b. A public community meeting with Marcia Rosen was mentioned to take place either July 7th or 11th at the Union Bank of California Conference Room.

D. Director's Report:

1. Book Project Update: Lucy Kishiue, Project Manager
 - a. The deadline for the Arcadia Book Project was extended to July 15th. July 5th is the last day to submit photos. There are seven chapters beginning with the early days and ending with the preservation and next generation of Japantown.
 - b. The proof will be returned about a month after it is turned in for final inspection.
 - c. The first run will produce 2500 books, with \$1 going back to JTF.
2. Neighborhood Beautification Fund Contract (May 1, 2005-April 30, 2006)
 - a. Letter included in packet.
 - b. Received funding for the litter hawk program (\$8,000) must apply in September for funding
3. Neighborhood Tree Replacement-DPW (BUF)

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- a. Trees and lights need to be replaced and fixed. Trees will be replaced to reflect the area, however for each tree that is removed there must be a tree hearing. The existing trees will be replaced with several different types of trees-Cherry, Plum and Japanese Maple. Many of the sidewalks also need to be replaced due to root damage.
4. Update on Starbucks
 - a. John McInerney has agreed to allow an extra 30 days to find a community member willing to fill the 1600 Webster space, but he is not willing to go beyond 30 days.
 - b. Linda received letter from McInerney's attorney asking her to "cease and desist" all actions taken to "interfere with the leasing of 1600 Webster street." Linda says she views this letter as an attempt to "gag" her. Linda shared the letter with Dorothy Ehrlich, executive director of the ACLU. They responded that they would support Linda and the Task Force in order to uphold the constitutional first amendment. The ACLU suggested that the First Amendment Coalition would also support the Task Force as well. Linda stated that she would like the board's support regarding this matter.
 - c. The board agreed in a unanimous vote moved by Scott Belser and Seconded by Roslyn Tonai to accept the letter as it is and let it be until the issue furthers and then an emergency meeting can be called to deal with any more threats.

E. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee
 - a. none
2. Business and Economic Development Committee
 - a. June 9 Meeting with Supervisor Mirkarimi and RDA neighborhoods to see communities reactions towards RDA. Ross wants suggest Sandy and Linda's names to the Mayor for appointment to the CAC.
3. Health and Safety Committee
 - a. none
4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee
 - a. Roslyn attended the CCLPEP conference and noted that SF Japantown was not included in the Preservation of Japantown Symposium. Otherwise conference went well. Also would like to look into preservation or documenting the Hokkubei Mainichi Building.
5. Communications & Marketing Committee
 - a. Seiko Fujimoto, Sandy Mori, and Lisa Watada met Friday, June 10. The committee would like to implement a policy that would have this committee review all public documents the JTF publishes before they are released, this includes all press releases and community letters.
 - b. Caryl Ito made a motion to approve such policy, Michael Gowe seconded and the board unanimously voted in favor of such plan.

F. Other Business and Announcements

1. Parking prices and meter enforcement
 - a. Supervisor Michaela Alioto Pier is pushing for neighborhoods to set parking prices and also allow Sunday parking meter enforcement.
2. Street Fairs
 - a. An article in the SF Chronicle talked about the restricting of Street Fairs in SF.
3. Appreciation Reception for Ed Lee
 - a. Sandy suggested it would be nice to throw a Appreciation gathering for Ed Lee for his support of Japantown.