

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting September 26, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m. Union Bank of California Hospitality Room Minutes

Attendees: Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Micahel Gowe, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Benh Nakjo, Rosalyn Tonai, Tetsuya Yoshida

Staff: Linda Jofuku

Guests: Anna Lieu, J. K. Yamamoto, Lucy Kishiue

Absent: Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi

A. Recognition of Quorum

B. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of August 22, 2005

Correction: Page 2, E. 2, a,1: Beard Papa

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected: Doug Dawkins; 2nd – Rosalyn Tonai; motion carried.

C. Chair's Report: Sandy Mori

1. Western Addition CAC

a. Budget and Finance Committee – Sandy Mori

With the Redevelopment funding of A-2 will end in year 2009, this committee is trying to determine what funding is available and are there any opportunities for Japantown to receive any of these funds. The Agency's Finance Committee has reported the amounts of funds in the "unprogramed funds" is very little, upwards to \$396,000. The CAC Budget Committee is determine policy on how the money will be allocated and how this money came to be. There will be ongoing discussion between this committee and the Agency.

b. Planning and Development Committee – Linda Jofuku

Any capital projects, community development, issues with leases matters come before this committee. There will soon be new affordable low-income housing within the A-2 area. Olson Lee, Director of Housing provided a workshop on low-income housing; what is available or not; what can be done; etc. Lee brought up the issue of Kokoro experiencing financial problems and may have to foreclose.

Redevelopment is currently in discussions with Kokoro and was not able to provide specifics on what can be done. Kokoro's facility have both low-income and market-rate units. Kokoro has two executive directors: one reporting to the non-profit board of directors and one reporting to Seniority – management company. JTF has not received any official comment from Kokoro on this matter.

D. Director's Report:

1. DPH Pedestrian Safety Application

JTF has applied for a mini-grant of \$9,990 to develop a plan for Japantown (referring to a letter she received from Michael Redetsky, Injury Prevention Coordinator). The Health and Safety Committee met with Frank Markowitz, Pedestrian Safety Manager, MTA. Community meetings will be held to conduct a

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survey, preferably face-to-face and in-language. JTF will be required to gather 100 surveys. The Health and Safety Committee specifically requested that meetings be held at Nihonmachi Little Friends and Sequoias, Hinode Towers, Kimochi lunch program and Rosa Parks Elementary School. The scope of the project has been developed and working on closing the contract.

2. Book Project Update – Lucy Kishiue, Project Manager

The copy has been reviewed/edited by the committee and back in the hands of the publisher. The book will be printed in England and shipped for distribution in 8 – 12 weeks, hopefully early December, Referencing letter from Julie Kiser, Regional Sales Manager, Arcadia Publishing. The first run will be 2100 books with \$1 for each book sold to benefit NJAHS, JANL and JTF. There is an opportunity to order and prepaid larger quantities of books at discounted rates.

The board requested Linda Jofuku to present a plan (with input from NJAHS and JANL) on handling discounted book orders and profit-sharing. Motion made by Doug Dawkins seconded by Scott Belser, motion carried.

3. Neighborhood Tree Replacement

In the capital portion of the contract with Japantown Center Garage, provided replacement of culturally-specific trees, i.e. cherry trees. Two trees were removed that were blocking the signage to the entry of the parking garage. Nihonmachi Little Friends requested the removal of a tree in the front of their building and replace with a cherry tree. Linda has requested Rich Hashimoto if funds can be allocated. An inventory will be done, mapped out, and the cost for tree and concrete replacement will be provided. Ben Nakajo commented sensitivity on the selection to a variety of trees. Suggests getting community input by way of a public meeting, establishing a committee, input from gardeners at the Japanese Tea Garden, Friends of Urban Forest – FUF. Nakajo questioned who is responsible for the azaleas and area in front of the Japan Center and would this project extend to the Peace Plaza. Mori answered that SFF Park and Rec is responsible.

4. Recommendation of Jim Misener to Geary Corridor CAC

Misener's application and resume has been forwarded to the program committee of the TA. The program committee will meet on October 25th at 9a.m. to forward Misener's resume to the full TA meeting on the same day at 11 a.m. for consideration. Linda and Jim are planning to attend the program committee meeting to answer any questions.

5. Geary Corridor Multilingual Outreach

Linda reported she attended the Geary CAC meeting and have approved the contract to receive the money from the State to the TA for the multilingual project. Linda will meet with the staff on the scope for the JTF to conduct the outreach starting with a kick-off meeting in November. Effort to integrate the pedestrian safety plan with this project.

6. Update on Staff

Takuro Akamine is a new intern at JTF. He is a master student in public administration at San Francisco State. Speaks Japanese and English and will help with translations. His class projects will be centered on Japantown including an economic development plan. His hours are 9 –12:30, M – Thurs. Misako Mori is

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interning with SFRDA and will connect up with her to see if she can continue to help the taskforce. Introduction of Anna Liu is reporting on Japantown as part of her journalism class at San Francisco State.

E. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee – Mark Moriguchi
A meeting will be held Wednesday, September 28 (Mori, Moriguchi, Jofuku, JCYC) to review the fiscal agent relationship with JTF to follow-up on a board request.
2. Business and Economic Development Committee
No Report
3. Health and Safety Committee – Benh Nakajo
The committee met with Frank Markowitz on September 20, 2005 with representatives from the Sequoias, Kiyo Kanemori – SFPD, several church reps – Kathy Reyes, Sumi Honnami ,, Ben Pease regarding concerns with pedestrian safety and the recent fatality on Laguna and Geary Sts. Discussed options to avoid future incidents and ease for senior pedestrians.
4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee – Rosalyn Tonai
There was no meeting but emails have been exchange to document the Hokubei building site, was formally the dormitory of the Reform Church. Documents were pulled and reviewed by Be Pease. Plan to meet with representatives of Hokubei and others to share the historical findings.
5. Communications & Marketing Committee – Seiko Fujimoto
The committee met on September 9, 2005. Bringing to the attention of board members that the contract with the Japantown Center Garage will end in 2007 and specifies marketing of Japantown. To ensure that JTF is on target, the committee has direct Linda Jofuku to develop a marketing plan. Louise Hanford and Lisa Watada serve on this committee and would like to recruit more members.

F. Other Business and Announcements

Jikei Kai is selling tickets for their fundraiser, \$2 per ticket/\$20 per book.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.