

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting November 28, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m. Union Bank of California Hospitality Room Minutes

Attendees: Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Rosalyn Tonai

Staff: Linda Jofuku

Guests: Kathy Reyes, Sumi Honnami, Lucy Kishiue

Absent: Michael Gowe, Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Tetsuya Yoshida

A. Recognition of Quorum

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

Corrections: Pg 3, D.5: It *is hopeful to receive the grant of* \$10,000 for this project.

Pg 3, E.1: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) *was* drawn-upon the specific role and relationship.

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected: Scott Belser; 2nd – Seiko Fujimoto; motion carried.

C. Chair's Report: Sandy Mori

1. Personnel Audit

Mori provided status on the personnel audit she conducted at the office. Working off a list of items to be contained in the files, it was concluded that there were "quite-a-few things" missing and will need to be worked on. No specifics were provided at this time.

2. Personnel Evaluation of Executive Director

Mori informed the board that he Executive Committee continues to work on the evaluation.

3. 1746 Post Street (formerly Hokubei Mainichi Building)

Mori reported on Alan Okamoto's recent request for a letter of clarification that JTF is supportive of the project and is aware that the current building will be demolished. The JTF is on record supporting the project proposed by Mr. Horibuchi and has requested that installation of a plaque/marker in the new building to recognize the historical significance of the site. This request is to avoid any misinterpretation by RDA that JTF was not supportive of this project. Tonai added that she is working on recording the historical significance of the building and plans to present this information to the Hokubei Mainichi Board. Tonai emphasized that it did not involve any landmarking efforts but may have caused misunderstandings.

Ito motioned to send a letter of clarification to reiterate JTF's endorsement of this project and does not object to the demolition of the current building. Motion seconded by Belser.

Tonai offered a friendly amendment, to encourage full understanding of the historical significance by the occupants and incorporate that recognition in the new building. Ito accepted friendly amendment; Belser accepted; motion carried.

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D. Director's Report: Linda Jofuku

1. DPH Pedestrian Safety Application

Jofuku provided status that 62 surveys have been received and tabulated exceeding the contract requirement of 50 completed surveys and confidence to reach JTF's goal of 100 completed surveys. Takuro continues to distribute surveys in the community. Jofuku encourages returning the Japanese version of the survey to document for the city department the need to provide information in the community's native language.

Jofuku added the success of the integrated concepts and community plan due to the increased communication between city departments, i.e. MTA, TA, DPH, Dept. of Parking & Traffic, Planning Department integrating the pedestrian safety planning with the larger vision of the Geary Corridor.

2. Book Project Update

Introduction of Kathy Reyes and Sumi Honnami, members of the book committee attending this meeting. Kishiue provided status of 141 books sold by the JTF. Results were not available for this board meeting on the retail sales from Arcadia Publishing. A proposal to share net profits of books ordered by JTF was presented and discussed. Tonai added a need for a distribution plan.

Motion presented for JTF board approval to sharing 50% of net profits on books ordered through JTF and sold by participating organizations was presented and discussed. M/S/C: Belser, Ito, motion carried.

An event to celebrate and sell books is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd from 12n – 3pm hosted by the book committee in front of Café Hana.

Ito is working with Jofuku to distribute the book to key city contacts.

3. Neighborhood Tree Replacement DPW (BUF)

Jofuku updated the board on DPW's concrete work in front of the Geary St. parking garage; ramp created for wheelchair, easier access; replacement of concrete squares caused by the ground sinking; Webster Street removal of weeds/small plants, filled with new mulch and plans to plant cherry trees. The planting of these trees will require a tree hearing which Jofuku will be attending. Work is underway for removal of the current tree in front of NLF due that the root structure affecting the concrete sidewalk with plans to replace with a cherry tree.

4. Geary Corridor Multilingual Outreach

Jofuku shared the brochure translated in various languages on a series of community workshops with the first on December 6th from 6pm – 8 pm at the JCCCNC. DPW will present four scenarios. Feedback was provided that these images were one dimensional where people will not visualize traffic flow, bridge, walkways, etc. Encouraging community attendance on this important meeting to provide input to the plans.

Mori and Jofuku will attend a meeting with SPUR representatives on December 6th at 9:30 a.m.

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E. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee – Mark Moriguchi
Mori asked if fiscal year '04-05 has been closed out. Jofuku will follow-up with Cindy. Moriguchi and Jofuku still needs to follow-up on closing accounts as a result of an earlier meeting with JCTC. Jofuku will contact Moriguchi to prepare finance report on the closed-out budget.
2. Business and Economic Development Committee
No Report
3. Health and Safety Committee – Benh Nakajo
Jofuku reported on behalf of Nakajo. Two meetings held to distribute the pedestrian survey and concerns in the community. Concerns of recent auto break-ins and an attempted mugging on Sutter (between Buchanan and Laguna). Jofuku has viewed the police report and met with Officer Kanemori to dispel any rumors related to this incident.
4. Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee – Rosalyn Tonai
Tonai will meet with Ben Pease and hold a committee meeting the following week to plan for a meeting with Hokubei to share the historical findings of the building/site. JTF board, RDA will be invited.
5. Communications & Marketing Committee – Seiko Fujimoto
No report. Discussion was held on the status of articles to be contained in the upcoming newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

F. Other Business and Announcements

1. Mirkarimi Resolution: Discussion was held on the origin of the resolution which is intended to ensure better communication between the various city departments and JTF by way of contacting JTF first before initiating major planning policy or major plans. JTF's goal is for the city to integrate Japantown's concepts and community plan and by a formal resolution endorsed by the board of supervisors, mayor would direct city agencies accordingly.

Mori was concerned with the notion that JTF will be a gatekeeper and would like to change the language of the proposed resolution. Jofuku will request Regina from Mirkarimi's office to respond the original email to the board members asking for their input. Mori requested to further discuss this resolution at our next board meeting.

2. Better Neighborhood Planning and Implementation Process: Mori asked if the board was aware of any legislation brought on by Supervisor Jake McGoldrick that affects all San Francisco neighborhoods. Jofuku confirmed that JTF is working with Dean Macris, Planning Dept. Ito asked if this was the Next Better Neighborhood where the Planning Dept hired personnel for and recalls having a meeting with Macris and staff. Jofuku will get the legislation for the board members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. and executive board entered closed session.