

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

**JTF Board Meeting
May 22, 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.
California Bank & Trust Conference Room
Meeting minutes - DRAFT**

Attendees: Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai,
Staff: none
Guests: Richard Hashimoto
Excused: Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Michael Gowe,
Resigned: Tetsuya Yoshida

**Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members.
Meeting called to order: 6:25 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President
Rosalyn Tonai acted as secretary and took minutes**

A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of April 24, 2006

The minutes of the Meeting of April 24, 2006 were approved unanimously as submitted. The meeting of March 27, 2006 was a committee of the whole, due to a lack of a quorum.

B. Report from President & Volunteer Consultant

Role of Volunteer Consultant, Bob Hamaguchi— Volunteer Robert Hamaguchi under supervision of Pres. Sandy Mori, has been instructed to review existing grants and fulfill contractual obligations with the Department of Public Health and Transportation

Authority. Hamaguchi's status is voluntary at this time. M/S/C (Matsuba/Fujimoto): to appoint Robert Hamaguchi as an ex-officio member of the JTF Board during this interim period.

Status of Office Operation - Robert Hamaguchi will be in the office up to 3 days/week with key access. Met with office staff Darryl Abantao who works on Weds & Fridays, 2 -3 hours in the afternoon. Hamaguchi will supervise Darryl, handle day-to-day operations, and put grants in place, as well as take board meeting minutes. John Tateishi of JACL (representing landlord) has been introduced to Hamaguchi and has been informed of the interim situation.

Role of Executive Committee During Transition - M/S/C (Ito/Matsuba) During this phase, Executive Committee shall be granted authority on personnel matters.

Status of Grants - Pedestrian Safety grant from the Department of Public Health needs to be completed. Initial outlay of \$5,000 was awarded. Second \$5,000 is due upon completion. Hamaguchi and Mori have met w/ the appropriate funders. Hamaguchi was instructed to follow through. Agreement forwarded to Health & Safety Committee chair Benh Nakajo. Board President requests oversight by H & S committee. Will meet w/ Japan Center Garage to discuss details of present contract. Geary Corridor Multi-lingual Outreach grant from the Transportation Authority. Outreach and planning efforts need to be completed post haste to inform

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the Transportation Authority on these pedestrian, urban design, transit rider experience for the time sensitive Geary Bus Rapid Transit Study. (see boardmember's Caryl Ito's attachment and report on Item #2.)

June 9, 2006 Symposium of Preservation of our Japantowns - Sandy Mori has been invited to speak on a panel: Preserving California's Japantowns Symposium as a panelist in the opening session: Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Three Japantowns. Miyako Hotel.

Status of Community Benefit District Concept for Japantown - JTF has learned that the Redevelopment Agency has initiated a feasibility assessment study of Jtown having a CBD. Consultants MJM Management and New America have been hired to initiate economic assessment of properties and businesses in Japantown. Usually large property owners are assessed. Similar Community Benefit study conducted in the Tenderloin. Pres. requested the Business & Economic Development Committee (chaired by Tak Matsuba) provide oversight and review.

C. Committee Reports:

Finance Report – Mark Moriguchi

Sandy & Robert H. will meet with JCYC to review financial procedures. Improved financial reports will be presented at the next board meeting June 2006.

Business and Economic Development – Tak Matsuba

Tak Matsuba reported that Japantown Merchants Association met with Ross Mirikarimi and Ken Rich for go over details and impact of SUD. Jtown Merchants Assoc. has agreed to support current SUD with the new understanding that an amendment to support an evaluation of the ordinance in two years would be better suited than a "sunset" clause that may leave no protection for the small businesses. M/S/C: (Ito/Matsuba) to support the current SUD and to include language that evaluates the ordinance by January 1, 2009.

Citizens Advisory Council for Geary Corridor - Caryl Ito reported that Jim Misener, planner and transportation expert serves as a neighborhood liaison representing Geary Corridor community which includes Japantown. (Board member and Jtown resident Michael Gowe served previously on CAC) will be invited to JTF Board meeting June. 26. In October and November, Transportation Authority will make recommendations on the bus rapid transit and light rail proposal. Emphasized the need for community input is critical at this time. JTF's contract to facilitate planning process to do multilingual outreach is due in August.

Health and Safety Committee – Benh Nakajo

Need to re-group and assess current agreement.

Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee – Rosalyn Tonai

Rosalyn forwarded her committee Memo on historical background of Evangelical and Reformed Church & 1746 Post Street site former Hokubei Mainichi site to Stu During, Redevelopment Agency staffer leading the focused Environmental Impact Review for the site. (Stan Muraoka is the SFRDA staff assigned to the project)

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Communications and Marketing Committee – Seiko Fujimoto

Bill was received from Jeffrey Kimoto for newsletter printing.

E. Other Business and Announcements:

1. Preserve America Community Neighborhood Program. Board discussed JCCCNC's request. Some board members felt proposal should be submitted in consortium with other nonprofits, including JTF. No unanimous decision reached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.