

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

**JTF Board Meeting
July 24, 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.
Union Bank of California Conference Room
Meeting minutes - DRAFT**

Attendees: Scott Belser, Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai,
Staff: Darryl Abantao, Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: Gaynell Armstrong, Darrell Gee, Gary Hoshiyama, Julie Kirschbaum, Olson Lee, Kirk Miyake, Aki Mori, Richard Moriguchi, Kei Nagai, Donna Pittman, David Sobel, Emi Tom,
Excused: Michael Gowe,
Absent: Doug Dawkins

**Recognition of Quorum established by 8 members.
Meeting called to order: 6:15 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President**

A. Approval of Minutes: Special Board Meeting of May 16 and Regular Board Meeting of June 26, 2006

B. Kokoro Assisted Living Home – David Sobel (SFRDA)

Caryl Ito moved and Scott Belser seconded a motion to support community-based operation and governance of Kokoro and support Kokoro's pursuing a \$5 million land purchase by SFRDA. JTF is not supporting any other related issues and will continue to follow future operations. JTF takes a position to support Kokoro to pursue the \$5 million loan to get the land back to agency with ongoing approval in front of SFRDA. JTF will send a letter to SFRDA indicating their support.

C. Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Study – Julie Kirschbaum (MTA)

Julie Kirschbaum and Donna gave a high level review of the study, timelines, and BRT alternatives. They are expecting to make recommendations to Geary CAC in January or February 2007 and to SFCTA Board in March/April. They emphasized that more than one of the alternatives will be carried into the environmental impact study phase. SFCTA will be hosting three public workshops in October presenting evaluation results of the various alternatives. It was recommended that 1.) a meeting of Jim Misener and SFCTA Staff including interested community members to discuss impacts of BRT on Japantown in September 2.) to attend workshops in October and recommend a position following the workshops.

**D. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Independent Contractor
Grant Projects Status**

DPH – Pedestrian/Traffic Safety Community Plan – We have conducted three outreach meetings and have gathered feedback. There will be a community wide meeting at the end of the project, tentatively set for September 14.

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Finance Information – All of the funds and accounts are taken care of except one last account of \$500 with Merrill Siebert. Mark Moriguchi has more information on how to close the account and hopes to complete in the next 30 days.

Financial Statement – June 30, 2006 - Bob Hamaguchi redid the spreadsheet with the accounts available and we need to keep track of the remaining three accounts; Japan Center Garage FY '06 – '07, Department of Public Health, and Municipal Transportation Authority.

'06 – '07 Preliminary Budget – The Japan Center Garage budget needs to be revised with Richard Hashimoto.

Better Neighborhood Plan – Bob Hamaguchi and Sandy Mori met with Ken Rich, San Francisco Planning Department and there was discussion for the need for a cross-community / organization to work with the Planning Department for a Better Neighborhood Plan in Japantown.

E. Report from JTF Executive Committee – Sandy Mori

Request for WACAC Funding – 100th Anniversary Centennial Landmark – The 100th Anniversary Centennial committee would like to submit a request for \$50,000 to the WACAC for a one-time capital expense for a dedicated landmark to commemorate the 100th anniversary. In Tab 5, there is an attachment including a design of a *sensu*, however JTF took a position to support the request with the contingent that they are only supporting the request for the money and not the specific design of the *sensu*.

Search for New Executive Director – Darryl Abantao is to email the job description to Board & Advisory members, UCB, SF State University, Stanford and various non-profits a copy of the job description for a new executive director. Upon the July 30 deadline, Seiko Fujimoto, Sandy Mori, and Rosalyn Tonai will meet to begin the review process.

Interim Formula Retail Policy – Gaynell Armstrong (SFRDA) – The Western Addition Citizens Advisory Committee (WACAC) delayed its policy on the two zoning policy proposals for formula retail and new off-sale liquor establishments along Fillmore and Divisadero Streets that would affect the A2 area, north side of Post St. If a store wants to come to a neighborhood commercial district in the A2 area, they are subject to providing written notice about the project to interested parties, neighborhood organizations and all properties within 150 feet of the project site and those on the block face across from the project site. The formula to establish if a business is a chain or not is if it has 11 or more locations in the United States. Scott Belser moved and Denis Henmi seconded a motion to support the interim formula retail policy with the amendment that the wording be changed in "Attachment A: Draft Interim Formula Retail Policy" from 150 feet as stated to 300 feet and otherwise consistent of the San Francisco Planning Code.

Update of 3D Meet and Greet Breakfast – The breakfast with 3D Investments went very well and 3D Investments is very pleased with the outcome. It is a good

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beginning for 3D Investments and they are currently searching for a bilingual executive director.

Jan Masaoka Retirement – Jan Masaoka is retiring and will be having a retirement party on October 12, 2006 at Hotel Nikko. We would like to do something to appreciate her work as well as introducing us to our Board member Scott Belser.

100th Anniversary Dinner – Caryl Ito volunteered to get a table for the Japantown Task Force at the dinner for 100th Anniversary of Japantown. Of the ten seats at our table, Michael Gowe and his wife, Caryl Ito, and Mark Moriguchi are the going to attend as a representative of the Task Force. The remaining seats need to be determined so that we know who we can invite people from the appreciate city agencies.

New City America Meeting – A meeting with Marco LiMandri on July 27, 2006. LiMandri reported on progress and changes to Fillmore CBD and highlighted importance of forming a good cross-community steering committee. JTF will lead organizing a steering committee meeting on September 7, 2006.

F. Committee Reports:

Finance Report – Mark Moriguchi

None

Business and Economic Development – Tak Matsuba

None

Health and Safety Committee – Benh Nakajo

None

Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee – Rosalyn Tonai

None

Communications and Marketing Committee – Seiko Fujimoto

None

E. Other Business and Announcements:

1. District 1 Town Hall Meeting – Saturday, July 29 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at Presidio Middle School, 450 - 30th Avenue at Clement – Sponsored by Mayor Newsom and Supervisor McGoldrick.
2. Scott Belser will be joining the Peace Corps and leaving the JTF Board of Directors. In celebration, we bought a fruit custard cake for everyone to enjoy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.