

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

**JTF Board Meeting  
October 23, 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Union Bank of California Hospitality Room  
Meeting minutes**

**Attendees:** Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai  
**Staff:** Darryl Abantao, Bob Hamaguchi  
**Guests:** Gaynell Armstrong, Caitlin Curtin, Stephen Engblom, Karen Kai, Kaz Naganuma, J.K. Yamamoto  
**Excused:** Michael Gowe  
**Absent:** Doug Dawkins, Denis Henmi

**Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members.  
Meeting called to order: 6:24 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**

**B. Festival of New Japanese Film - Caitlin Curtin**

Caitlin Curtin of the San Francisco Independent Film Festival came to JTF to present the idea of having a new Japanese film festival in Japantown. The movies would be geared to a younger audience that will be different than the SF International Independent festival around in the age ranges of 21 to 34. JTF was concerned about the timing and funding of the festival. JTF suggested Curtin to contact Tak Onishi of Japan Media because of his involvement in manga/anime and the anime festival. JTF said that with the congestion of the festivals early in the year, July would be a good opportunity for this festival. Curtin stated that they have enough capital to do the festival, but would need to find sponsors or funding in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for print media and hotels for the directors from Japan.

**C. WA A-2 Exit Report - Gaynell Armstrong McCurn**

The Western Addition A-2 Project will close January 1, 2009. Gaynell Armstrong is beginning the process of the Community Transition Plan and how the Redevelopment Agency will exit the project area. In this plan a history of what has happened in the redevelopment area, the different properties sold dating back to the 1960's, which Japanese American families and businesses were displaced as a result of redevelopment, and what the future holds for this area will be documented. Sandy Mori asked what the timeline for this project would be, but Armstrong did not have a real timeline. Rosalyn Tonai commented that the NJAHS has done some oral histories and mapped out various businesses with the help of Ben Kobashigawa, Kayrn Ikeda and JCYC California Leadership Program. Armstrong will develop a draft and return for JTF input.

**D. Japantown Photo Essay - Karen Kai & Kaz Naganuma**

EDAW hired Stephen Engblom by 3-D to start the planning process for the mall. The photo essay is the start of this planning process and hopes that this project will capture the "DNA" of Japantown. 3-D and EDAW want to understand what makes the community function and for a continuation in the future. Three photographers

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will try to balance the assignment with their personal creativity. Stephen Engblom, Bob Hamaguchi, Karen Kai, and Kaz Naganuma created a creative brief document to convey this to each photographers. Bob Mizuno and Lloyd Hryciw are two of the photographers have been selected while the third is still pending.

## **E. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director**

**Geary Corridor BRT Public Meeting Nov. 2** – The November 2, 2006 workshop is the last time for input at for the SFCTA to include in the findings of community outreach of the Geary BRT Project. At the meeting, they will address the diversions of traffic during construction. Hamaguchi is concerned with the timing and mitigating factors for traffic diversion and pedestrian safety. Rosalyn Tonai asked what outreach was done to the apartment complexes. Brochures and fliers were distributed throughout the community as well as the SFCTA press release announcing the meeting in the papers this week.

**Community Benefit District Survey** – There is a community meeting on October 24 at 7 pm at JCCNC with a brief PowerPoint presentation. Macro Li Mandri and Rodney Fong are going to be in attendance for a question and answer session. Mark Moriguchi commented that in order to get people in support of the Community Benefit District, people want to see how much it will cost and what they are getting out of each dollar. Those members that are in the Merchants Association are already paying and do not want to pay twice. Hamaguchi responded that a majority of the merchants are not paying and that the intent is not to double pay, but rather disperse the costs throughout all property owners and to improve and go beyond the services that the city offers.

**Funding Sources - 9/30/06** – Mark Moriguchi stated from the report provided by JCYC that from June 2005 to July 2006, we had a preliminary loss of \$5,000 on the income side. We started with \$20,000 at the beginning of the year so we can transfer money from there.

**Financial Statement - 9/30/06** – We are currently within the garage proposed budget including the \$10,000 capital item for the community Bulletin Board.

**Bid / RFP - Community Bulletin Board - Meeting w/Garage Bd. - Oct. 19** – Richard Hashimoto has old building directories that were used in the past and we hope that they can be salvaged and we can renovate them. Rich says that there are two in storage, but we have yet to meet with him to take a look at them..

**City Summit - Sept. 26** – Bob Hamaguchi and Sandy Mori attended the September 26 City Summit event. At the event, plans for the Prop I study and the Citywide Action Plan were presented.

**Updates on the Shooting in Flow and on the Peace Plaza** – There have been many calls coming into the office if there are any updates. Bob Hamaguchi has talked to Kenji Taguma, Capt. Kevin Dillion, and Michael Sim. The cause is still unknown and Capt. Dillion would like to thank the community for reporting the incident immediately with a good description leading to the apprehension of the suspect.

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## **F. Report from the Executive Committee – Sandy Mori**

**Benh Nakajo Hired at K&S** – Benh Nakajo has been hired at K&S and is the liaison between tenants and property management.

**Kintetsu Donation** – Kintetsu left a donation to create the San Francisco Japantown Foundation and Sandy Mori has been asked to sit on the board as a representative of Japantown Task Force.

## **G. Committee Reports**

## **H. Other Business and Announcements**

1. Geary Corridor BRT Public Meeting - Thurs., Nov. 2 from 6 - 8 pm - Jones Memorial Methodist Church
2. CBD Community Meeting - Tues., Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. - Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
3. Press Clippings

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm