

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting March 26, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m. Union Bank of California Hospitality Room Meeting minutes

Attendees: Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Denis Henmi, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Benh Nakajo
Staff: Darryl Abantao, Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: Walter Kaye, Selly Ngakwan, Katherine Reyes, Fumio Suda
Excused: Michael Gowe, Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi, Rosalyn Tonai
Absent: Stephen Engblom

**Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members.
Meeting called to order: 6:19 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President**

A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of February 26, 2007

B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Funding Sources - 02/28/07 & Financial Statement 02/28/07 – There have been complications with getting the budget approval, but are assured funding through the end of the fiscal year. We received the reimbursement check from MTA and are awaiting a \$1700 check from NBF.

Better Neighborhood Plan Community Meeting Agenda -

Community Bulletin Board Installed– The Community Bulletin Board was installed in front of May's Café where the vacant space is located. We renewed an old directory and Darryl has posted an information sheet on how advertise an event.

Community Benefit District Status – The next meeting for the community benefit district is scheduled for April 5. Last week there was a meeting with a large attendance. Key issues were discussed about preference rates for non-profit organizations. The next issues to discuss will include the budget – marketing, management, cleaning, security and other possible services. This planned budget is \$650,000, but can be reduced by offering lesser services or finding creative ways to minimize costs. The current district is too small to fund all of the services. Marco Li Mandri has been asked to redo the boundaries of the district to include both sides of Sutter, along Webster, and churches on Laguna. Having Li Mandri create a more complex formula to determine costs will distribute the cost more effectively because certain streets are less maintenance and less expensive than others.

Japanese Tea Garden Response – Hamaguchi received an email last week from Margret Shaub and Jaci Fong of Rec and Park who have started a RFP. More information will be provided when available.

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Japantown History Walk Art Design Committee Approval – The Art Design Commission has approved an initial concept, but not the specific design of a landmark for the Japantown History Walk.

California Leadership Council – Land Trusts – The Leadership Council wants the three Japantowns to fund \$9,000 (\$3,000 per Japantown) in order to hire John Tagami, a lobbyist, to find different federal grants to be used to develop affordable housing or preserve an old building. There is no formal plan as of now and San Jose has contributed the first \$3,000.

Cherry Blossom Booth Volunteers – JTF needs volunteers for the Cherry Blossom Festival to staff an information table on Post Street and volunteers for the Better Neighborhood Plan Room. If we cannot find enough volunteers, we have offered it to the Zabe Bent for outreach of the Geary BRT project.

C. Report from the Executive Committee – Sandy Mori

Redevelopment Area A-2 Exit Plan – There is a meeting scheduled with Marcia Rosen, SFRA to discuss the various projects and what needs to be included in the A-2 Exit Plan. There are some issues that need clarification with NPC.

Certificate of Preference – The report on the criteria for Certificate of Preference is available and is available by contacting Bob Hamaguchi. There was a short article in the Hokubei newspaper about a workshop, but results of that workshop are unknown.

D. Other Business and Announcements

1. Press Clippings
2. John Tateishi Dinner May 19, 2007

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.