

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting July 23, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m. Union Bank of California Hospitality Room Meeting minutes

Attendees: Seiko Fujimoto, Denis Henmi, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (President), Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai
Staff: Darryl Abantao, Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: Gaynell Armstrong McCurn, Walter Kaye, Olson Lee, Tonia Macneil, Peter Strauss, Fumio Suda, Britt Tanner, Horace Washington
Excused: Doug Dawkins, Stephen Engblom, Michael Gowe, Tak Matsuba, Mark Moriguchi

**Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members.
Meeting called to order: 6:10 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President**

A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of June 25, 2007

Rosalyn Tonai moved and Seiko Fujimoto seconded a motion to adopt the minutes for the JTF Board Meeting on June 25, 2007 with the amendment; Meeting called to order: 6:08 p.m. by Caryl Ito.

B. Olson Lee, RDA – Certificate of Preference Proposal

Olson Lee, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency presented an update on the Certificate of Preference Program for those individuals who were displaced by the Redevelopment Agency in the 1960's. In 1999, the Redevelopment Agency evaluated the program to increase effectiveness. At the time, certificates were issued to one person who was usually the male of the home. They were then expanded to all of the residents on the site occupancy record.

The Redevelopment Agency is again looking at ways to increase effectiveness of the program and will modify administration of the program by hiring a full-time staff person to clean up the list and use available resources to locate those individuals on the list. The list is over 40 years old and addresses are outdated and some have passed away. By using social security numbers, they are able to access websites to aid in finding addresses for those remaining individuals.

Other issues still remain with the effectiveness of the program. With Area A2 sunsetting in 2009, the program will be extended 10 years to evaluate the effectiveness and another extension may be considered. Once the list is cleaned up with new information and deceased names are removed from the list, outreach efforts will be evaluated. Outreach needs to be included in press releases, newsletters, PSA's, churches and other methods for those who cannot be located.

C. Britt Tanner & Peter Straus, MTA – Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) Results and Update

The TEP Project is the first comprehensive study in 25 years to evaluate the Muni system looking at key issues including; improving overall performance and promote long-term financial stability, providing a faster and more convenient service, to

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develop more cost-effective operating practices and to develop a five to seven year action plan. After completing a service analysis to understand conditions on each route, the project has concluded on each route the amount of travel time, passenger miles, loading/unloading volumes for each stop, evaluation of service coverage and ease of transfers and the perspective of the customer.

After completing the analysis, the project has concluded the following;

- Urban environment and travel demand differ between urban core and outer districts
- Transit success seen in radial commute travel to/within urban core, but most trips are not radial
- Transit could improve on short distance travel
- Unmet demand for peripheral travel between outer neighborhoods
- Transit expected to play increasing role in collegiate travel and other new business/residential development.

At some bus stops; technology has been activated to inform those who are waiting at the bus stop when the next local or limited bus will arrive. In the future, bus stations will incorporate Next Bus technology giving buses priority at traffic signals. There are also pilot programs being tested on POP and multi-door boarding.

D. Tonia Macneil, SF Arts Commission – Hamilton Recreation Center Artwork

Tonia Macneil and Horace Washington came to the board meeting with slightly adjusted panels. The design for the Hamilton Pool and Recreation Center will include nine ceramic tiles on the Geary Street entrance of the building. Each mural will have a central mosaic tile mural panel and a liner ceramic strip on each side. Horace was able to explain his thoughts behind the design and was able to share them with the attendees at the meeting.

It was unanimously felt that intent of each tile representing various ethnicities of the area was not artistically clear.

E. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Funding Sources - 06/30/07 & Financial Statement 06/30/07 – Included in the Board packet and please view at your leisure.

Staffing/Funding Projection – Attached in the board packet is the staff and funding projection for the year. Funding will include funds from the Gerbode Foundation, Japan Center Garage, San Francisco Planning Department and the Mayor's Office of Economic Development. These funds will staff the Executive Director, Community Aide and the possibility of a third staff member, also a Community Aide.

Better Neighborhood Plan Status – Attached in the board packet, you will find a copy of the newsletter, a timeline for various projects including the BNP, a schedule of the focus groups and a copy of the survey. The board was encouraged to spread the word about the focus groups and was invited to attend any that they were able to.

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J Pop Center Historical Archive / Exhibit Status (Rosalyn Tonai) – Rosalyn Tonai informed the board that there will be a veiling ceremony to honor the Hokubei Mainichi building before demolition begins. NJAHS conducted a document of past usage of the building and a walk through before demolition. Seiji would like to have a plaque near the elevators. In addition to the plaque he does not want to exhibit old photos on the wall, but has not come up with an alternative and is open to suggestions.

JCYC Fiscal Contract – Included in the board packet, is a draft of the agreement JCYC uses when being a fiscal agent for other agencies. When JCYC is the fiscal agent for other groups, they are not a 501c3 like JTF. Because JTF is a 501c3, it is a unique situation. The draft includes differences from the past agreement such as we are conducting business in the name of JCYC, JCYC has the authority to manage programs and needs approval of JCYC Board of Directors.

Caryl Ito moved and Denis Henmi seconded a motion for JTF to enter the fiscal agreement upon approval of the following:

- The City won't have a problem with this type of formal relationship;
- Mark Moriguchi (treasurer) is satisfied with the language and control of funds.

F. President of the Board Report from Sandy Mori

Resignation of Board Member, Michael Gowe – Michael Gowe is continuing to teach and recently had another child and requested to be removed from the Board of Directors, but would still like to be involved with JTF and become an advisory member. Caryl Ito moved and Benh Nakajo seconded a motion for the approval of Michael Gowe to be removed as a Board member and added as an Advisory member.

Western Addition A2 Transition Plan – As the A2 area sunsets, Gaynell is working on the continuation of the certificate of preference program and the transition back into the City's jurisdiction of zoning. The Mayors Office of Community Development will takeover the agency's current functions. The WACAC will handle repairs of the panels. There was discussion of moving the art panels to the airport (Air Transit Term) or the WA Library or the Webster Towers. DPW plans to remove the panels and replace them with cement so it is not an ongoing maintenance problem.

Urban Solutions Annual San Francisco Neighborhood Business Awards – Two years ago, Benkyodo was nominated for the SF Neighborhood Business Award and this year we would like to nominate Uoki Sakai for the SF Neighborhood Business Award. The deadline is August 27, 2007. Darryl and Bob will work with Sandy on the nomination process.

Update on Nihonmachi Terrace – Seiko Fujimoto attended a meeting with approximately 100 to 125 attendees about the \$10 – 15 million renovation of Nihonmachi Terrace. Financing includes an existing \$3 million loan from Konkō Church and new loans from Citigroup. The renovation will be done to all units

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including dual pane windows, new boiler room, and a full sprinkler system in compliance with City code.

JTF Newsletter – Before the end of the year, we need to produce another newsletter.

Board Committees – Bob and Sandy will work together on subcommittee meetings.

G. Other Business and Announcements

1. Press Clippings

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.