

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

## **JTF Board Meeting June 30, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m. Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan Planning Room Meeting minutes**

**Attendees:** Seiko Fujimoto, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (President), Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai,  
**Staff:** Darryl Abantao, Bob Hamaguchi  
**Guests:** Lynne Horiuchi, JK Yamamoto  
**Absent:** Doug Dawkins, Stephen Engblom, Denis Henmi, Tak Matsuba, Lisa Watada

**Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members.  
Meeting called to order: 6:13 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President**

### **A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of June 2, 2008**

Benh Nakajo moved and Rosalyn Tonai seconded a motion to adopt the minutes for the JTF Board Meeting on June 2, 2008.

### **B. JPop Center (Lynne Horiuchi)**

As part of the Owner's Participation Agreement, Viz Pictures hired Lynne Horiuchi to document the history of the building. The building has been recognized as Level 2 on the American Historic Survey. The survey and Halves Report, a physical documentation of the building, will include a documentation of the building based on architectural standards setup by the National Parks Service. The survey will be distributed to Viz Pictures, Hokubei Mainichi, Sonoma State University, San Francisco Landmarks Preservation, SF Redevelopment Agency, SF Main Library, Japanese American Historical Society and Japantown Task Force.

Lynne Horiuchi made a presentation on her findings. Robert Hamaguchi asked why Horiuchi is making a presentation to the JTF Board. Horiuchi responded that it was part of the OPA and that no Board action is required. The Landmarks Commission will critique her report at a future date.

Sandy Mori asked if included the history of the African American ownership of the building. Horiuchi responded that Bueller Credit was a bank that owned it at one point. It is noted that the African American Historical Society also had ownership, but Amy Howes was not able to find any valid documentation. There is more history than she could find resources for, but will continue looking for information on the Japanese Reform Church and information for the African American Historical Society.

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

**Financials/Funding Sources—** At the previous JTF Board of Directors Meeting, there was discussion of a possible position with the Japan Center Garage as the Director Marketing and Community Relations. Since then, the Department of Parking and Traffic has removed that position from the Japan Center Garage budget and the budget without the Director of Marketing and Community Relations is going for approval before the MTA's full commission on the consent calendar.

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Caryl Ito moved and Seiko Fujimoto seconded a motion to Bob Hamaguchi resigning as of July 1 and going off of payroll effective June 30, 2008 with the approval that Bob Hamaguchi will continue as a consultant at the same payrate beginning July 1 subject to any further details based on a meeting with JCYC.

**San Francisco Foundation Proposal** – Included in tab 2 of the Board of Directors packet is the proposal submitted to the SF Foundation.

**Mayor's Office of Workforce and Economic Development Grant** – Included in tab 3 of the Board of Directors packet is a \$25,000 worksheet with a write up for Richard Hillis, Mayor's Office of Workforce and Economic Development. We are estimating an update in the first week of July.

**Better Neighborhood Plan Update** – The Summer 2008 Better Neighborhood Plan Newsletter was mailed to all residents within the mailing area of the March 2007 distribution. Information included in the newsletter are notice of the July 9 Community Town Hall Meeting, an update of where we are in the project, and the Historic Resource Survey.

**Sensu Lighting Update** – The lighting project should be completed by the beginning of July. There will be a solar panel at the corner of Post and Webster Streets.

**Japantown Marketing PowerPoint** – The Japantown PowerPoint slideshow created by Selly Ngaikwan was presented. Caryl Ito commented that this presentation should be shown at the San Francisco International Airport. There is a city requirement for public art and this type of marketing for the City's neighborhoods would be great. Clear Channel said they would be giving space for public information.

Rosalyn Tonai commented that at the Oakland Airport there is a huge tv screen where you wait at baggage claim.

Hamaguchi commented that the presentation will be shown at the beginning of the BNP Town Hall Meeting on July 9 while before the agenda begins.

## D. President of the Board Report from Sandy Mori

**RDA Director Stephen Maduli-Williams Visit – June 10** – On June 10, Stephen Meduli-Williams, Deputy Director of the SF Redevelopment Agency visited Japantown.

**Certificate of Preference Special Commission Meeting – July 10** –At 4 p.m. on July 10, there will be a special meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chambers regarding the sunsetting of A2 in January 2009. Although there have been negative impacts on Japantown due to the Redevelopment Agency, we need to highlight the positives as well including appreciation of support for Kokoro, retaining Nihonmachi Terrace as affordable housing and the past support from Shirley Weisinger

**A-2 Exit Plan Update – RDA Japantown Funding** - During Stephen Meduli-Williams' visit, he committed to help JTF funding with \$50,000, but will need to work with the Agency to process it. Sandy Mori will give an update at the next Board Meeting.

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## **E. Other Business and Announcements**

1. Community Calendar
2. Press Clippings

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.