

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting November 24, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m. Japantown Better Neighborhood Plan Planning Room Meeting Minutes

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

Recognition of Quorum established by 8 members.
Meeting called to order: 6:13 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President

A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of September 22, 2008
Caryl Ito moved and Seiko Fujimoto seconded a motion to adopt the minutes for the JTF Board of Directors Meeting on September 22, 2008.

B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources— The financial statements through October 31 was distributed as a handout.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update – Included in the Board of Directors packet is the minutes from the November 13 Steering Committee meeting. At the Nov. 13 meeting, Supervisor Mirkarimi attended to follow up and continue his assurance to support the plan. At the previous meeting, Planning wanted to 1.) make sure there was enough money to complete the plan and 2.) what impacts there would be without an EIR since 3D was no longer contributing a portion of funding for an EIR. Any plan without an EIR cannot be adopted into law. Planning Department there is enough budget for staffing and to add another consultant to give expertise on key issues. The plan is being scheduled for completion by March 31, 2009.

JCYC Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement – Included in the Board of Directors packet is the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement that continues through June 30. The formal agreement covers all services JCYC provides from payroll to financial reporting.

Rosalyn Tonai commented that when JTF receives donations, we need to inform our donors that we need to have them payable to JCYC / JTF. Sandy Mori also commented that this has been explained to all agencies that fund JTF.

Mark Moriguchi moved and Rosalyn Tonai seconded a motion to approve the JCYC Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement through June 30, 2009.

JAANC: Kanrinmaru 150th Anniversary Committee –From April through December 2010, there will be events celebrating the JAANC Kanrinmaru 150th Anniversary. JTF will continue to support the anniversary and will assist as much as possible, but will not be able to financially sponsor due to our lack of funding.

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Japanese Tea Garden RFP (Tak Matsuba) – On Wednesday November 19 Tom Hart, SF Park and Recreation led a walkthrough of approximately 25 people in the Japanese Tea Garden. Many of the people who attended this walkthrough were disappointed at the condition in which Fred Low has maintained the concession stand.

Doug Dawkins commented that during the last RFP, Fred Low was favorable because he made a strong presentation that this could be a highly profitable location. He did not focus and emphasize promoting the cultural authenticity of the Japanese Tea Garden, but rather focused on the profitability of the concession stand. The Park and Rec does not have any terms specified or retribution if they do not follow their original RFP. The community can fight for a hard RFP, but if there is no system or way to enforce their proposal, it doesn't matter. As the RFP's are collected, JTF and the community needs to be part of reviewing the terms of the lease so this does not become a problem for many years. He recommended we be sure that the lease agreement contains requirements for authenticity and is enforced by the Agency.

Sandy asked Bob Hamaguchi to follow this matter and to set up an appointment with the head of the Agency.

MOCI CDB Grant Proposal – Included in the Director's packet is a copy of the \$50,000 grant proposal to MOCI for FY 09-10. This proposal is improving the economic development of the area. JTF is seeking funds to assist the micro-businesses in the area.

Meeting with Consul General – JA Leadership Delegation – Bob received an invitation from the Consul General's office to update Consul General Nagamine on the status of the BNP and if there was any way for him to assist with the process. Bob emphasized that it would be an enormous support if the CG's office or exhibits could be relocated to Japantown. The Consul General had heard similar suggestions from others. He would take it under advisement but cautioned it would be a lengthy process. Consul General Nagamine expressed his continued support for Japantown and looked forward to future updates.

Tab 7 of the Board of Director's packets included an application for the Japanese American Leadership Delegation to Japan. It is a program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated by the JA museum.

Japantown Holiday Festival Status (Seiko Fujimoto and Tak Matsuba) – As part of the holiday festivities, this year there will be the gara gara (raffle prize drawing) in the Kinokuniya Building. On November 26 and 27, Japantown and the gara gara will be featured on KRON's Bay Area Bargains television show. They will be showing this episode with Japantown six times over two days. The 2008 gara gara dates will be on December 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

JPop Center Update (Denis Henmi and Rosalyn Tonai) – Denis Henmi gave an update on the JPop Center building. The structural system is coming out of the ground. There were a few problems with the 1600 Webster building because it was encroaching onto the property. Seiji Horibuchi has leased four of the seven retail spaces. Currently there are two high end clothing stores catered to younger people. With the delays, the building is expected to be completed in June 2009. They are continuing to work on art

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inside of the glass for the elevator to document the history in addition to the oral histories.

C. President of the Board Report from Sandy Mori

Silver Spur Luncheon – There were over 2,000 in attendance at the 2008 Silver SPUR Luncheon and Sandy thanked all of those who attended.

Historical Preservation Commission – There will be a new Historic Preservation Commission. Sandy asked if there was anybody that Japantown could recommend for this commission. Sandy distributed information on the seats they are looking to fill.

Certificate of Preference – There was a policy passed that anybody who is a certificate holder is eligible for any Redevelopment projects. There are still continued efforts by JTF to get a list of those who RDA does not have a current contact for so they can be made aware of what a Certificate of Preference is and that they are eligible. It was recommended that we compile a list of 10-12 eligible Certificate Holders and assist them through the process.

JTF Newsletter – Sandy asked that JTF staff work on a newsletter for the end of the year or at the beginning of 2009.

D. Other Business and Announcements

1. Community Calendar
2. Press Clippings
3. Nihonmachi Terrace Community Meeting – Tuesday, December 2 @ 6 p.m.
4. JTF / JACL Clean Up Day – Saturday, December 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.