

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting April 27, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. Japantown BNP Planning Room Meeting Minutes

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

Recognition of Quorum established by 8 members. There was not a quorum.
Meeting called to order: 6:08 p.m. by Caryl Ito, Vice President

A. Approval of Minutes: Without a quorum the minutes of Feb 23 will be deferred to the next meeting, Mon Jun 1.

B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources – There was no financial report.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update – The Plan is now scheduled for completion by the July. There was a community meeting held Sat Apr 25 at the JCCNC. The preliminary recommendations were presented. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi spoke and committed to finding a way to get an enforceable plan considering the lack of funding for an EIR. Considering the budget tightness, we were encouraged to seek funding from the Mayor's office and we should lobby hard to get Planning to delay the layoff of Rosie Dudley. The handout is a good outline of the complete preliminary recommendations.

BRT: New Options for Fillmore/Jtown - Bob reported that SFCTA has now added options for the Fillmore/ Jtown intersection. The fill options previously presented are proving to be far too costly, particularly complicated by the cost of moving a sewage pump station on the north side of Geary. A least costly option calls for little change except for creating bus lanes on the curbsides of the street. This is not considered a favorable option due to not overcoming previous issues of calming the street and creating a safer pedestrian crossing. A third option includes the concept of a station at Webster instead of Fillmore; however, it received a lot of negative feedback at the community meeting. Caryl Ito asked if the EIR being done for BRT could in anyway reduce the cost of the Jtown BNP EIR. Bob would look into it.

JPop Center - Bob reported the J Pop Center is scheduling a grand opening celebration event on Sat Aug 15. The events planned include a festival of J Pop-themed attractions and exhibits. To attract a notable artist, DokiDoki, JTF has been asked to send the attached letter to invite them to the event. JTF will be an event sponsor providing outreach assistance; however, it will not provide any financial support. Ros Tonai and Lynn Horiuchi presented a status of the oral histories required in the OPA. It is expected to be completed shortly. Denis reported that the historical photos that will be used in the elevator exhibit are yet to be decided. It was recommended that a press release be done to announce the finalization of the plaque and the oral histories. Bob will contact Denise Blades of our press release plans.

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JMA/JTF Economic Development and Marketing Committee: The attachment shows the intended goals and objectives of a new committee being formed being led by JTF and the Japantown Merchants Association. More detailed plans of the initiatives will be provided at the next board meeting.

Japanese Tea Garden Update - Bob reported that in his capacity as a director of the SFJapantown Foundation he has been involved with assisting Café Hana in the processing through the Planning Department. The Golden Gate Park is a national registered historic site and accordingly has special preservation requirements. It is anticipated that the lease and SFJF documentation will be approved at a May Rec and Park Commission Meeting and the lease is expected to commence on July 1.

MOCI \$30,000 Grant Approved - Bob reported that the MOCI has approved a \$30,000 grant to assist small businesses with planning and financing for fiscal year 2009-10. The original request was for \$50,000.

New Hire – Kathleen Furukawa - Subject to some negotiations, Kathleen Furukawa has been made an offer for the Community Aide position beginning June 1. Katy's resume is attached.

Other Business and Announcements

Asian Pacific Islander KQED/Union Bank Reception May 5 - The community is invited to attend this event honoring among others Caryl Ito.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.