

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting June 1, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. Japantown BNP Planning Room Meeting Minutes

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

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: The minutes of April 27 and June 1 meetings will be approved at the next meeting.
- B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources – There was a budget review. See attached.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update – Bob reported that on the Planning Commission meeting of May 28. The meeting was to hear the schedule for upcoming meetings of June 11, 18, and action on at the June 25 meeting.

BNP Implementation Plan - Bob reviewed a draft position paper on the BNP Plan. In it, there is a recommendation for the implementing organization. It proposes that instead of starting a new organization, the Steering Committee should use the JTF charter and 501c3 status, rename the organization, appoint a new board chair, appoint new board members, and appoint a new ED. The intent being that there not be a duplication of organizations in Japantown. The position was supported by all. A modification to add something about the fact that the planning of the future has really not just been over the last 2 years, but started with the Concept Plan in 1999. The attached memo of May 10 was passed out. It proposes JTF continue in its current mission and proposes various modifications to its fundings to carry out a transition to an implementation organization by June 30, 2010. The board was encouraged to review the attachments further and send Bob any comments. A straw email vote would be taken to formalize the position.

JMA/JTF Economic Development and Marketing Committee - Bob reported that a collaboration with the Japantown Merchants Association has begun. Minutes of the first meeting are attached. The objective of the committee will be to promote the Japantown commercial businesses, increase membership in the association, determine needs of the merchants, and develop funding sources (including a CBD).

Japanese Tea Garden - Bob reported that Rec and Park Commission meets on Wed Jun 4 to approve selection of Café Hana for the concessionaire of the Japanese Tea Garden. If all goes well, approval of the lease from the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee is expected in late July with final Board approval a week later. Operations are expected to be handed over to Café Hana October 1.

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Nihonmachi Terrace Update - Bob reported that Nihonmachi Terrace's tax credit financier was now requiring a stronger financial partner. The John Stewart Company was selected by the JARF Housing board. Bob had discussed the negotiations with Will Tsukamoto and found that the arrangement was quite understandable considering the current upheavals in the financial markets and that such a requirement was not unreasonable. The arrangement with Stewart calls for them to be a general partner and in return receiving a portion of the up-front development fee and \$10,000/year in management fees. It was Bob's assessment that this arrangement was not unreasonable under the circumstances.

MOCI \$30,000 Grant approved - Bob reported that the application for a \$50,000 grant from MOCI had been reduced to \$30,000. Accordingly, the business assistance goals and objectives are being reduced. Bob reported that he will have to hold off hiring a community aide until other funding sources can be identified. The offer from Katy Furukawa has been withdrawn.

Other Business and Announcements

BNP Planning Commission Meetings will be Jun 11, 18, and 25 to seek endorsement of Plan Draft.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.