

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting  
Monday August 24, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Japantown BNP Planning Room  
Meeting Minutes

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

- A. Recognition of Quorum established by 8 members. There was a quorum.  
Meeting called to order: 6:15 p.m. by Caryl Ito, Vice President
- B. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 1 meetings was approved.  
Minutes of the April 27 meeting will have to be approved at the next meeting.
- C. CPMC Update - Gus Hernandez, Marchese Company - The CPMC hospital project at Geary and Van Ness is in the outreach period. The EIR is underway and is expected to be completed in late 2009 or early 2010. It is still projected to be 555 beds. They must be complete by 2015, therefore they will need approval of Board of Supervisors by late 2010 and begin before end of 2010. It was recommended that a presentation be made at either a community meeting or the BNP Steering Committee. The concern was that the community input was not too late in the process. Gus would get in touch with Bob to discuss the community outreach.
- D. Geary BRT Update – Jim Meisner, Board Advisor and GBRT Citizens Advisory Member - The BRT is in the EIR stage. Jim highlighted the attention to the Fillmore stop alternatives. Caryl Ito asked if Jim knew how the \$3.5mm Glen Park transportation study was funded and if there was a way to get similar funding for the Japantown BNP. Jim was not aware of the funding details. Draft EIR is expected in early 2010 and public comment will follow. We will await the draft EIR.
- E. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources – There was a budget review. MOCI/MOEWD \$30,000 funding has been signed. SFRDA and MOEWD are willing to extend their grants to Jun 30, 2010. PGE \$8,000 grant to June 2010 has been received. This will not allow funding of a community aide.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update – Steering Committee has had two meetings since Planning Department acknowledgement of the draft plan. The committee is being renamed the Organizing Committee. There will be a community meeting Wed Sep 9 7:00 to 9:00 at JCCNC to update the community. The Planning Department has proposed a workplan budgeted with \$80,000 for ½ staff person for one year. This will allow us to address the open issues listed in the Resolution.

JEDM – The Japantown Economic Development and Marketing Committee has had four meetings to develop a plan for marketing Japantown. The committee has assisted the merchants association to hire a media consultant, Potion – Dawn Shaloup. She will conduct survey of merchants, conduct a branding session with merchants, coordinate

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media development, and complete a media/marketing plan for 2010 in the next 90-days. The agendas of the meetings are attached.

JPop Center Update - The New People (the new name) had its grand opening and People Summit (festival) on Sat August 15. It was well attended and extremely successful. The festival is expected to become an annual event.

Japanese Tea Garden - Bob reported that the Café Hana lease was approved at the Board of Supervisors and operations are expected to begin Sep 2/3.

Nichibei Times - It was reported that the Nichibei Times would stop production in August. There will be effort by Kenji Taguma and staff to revive the paper through a non-profit foundation. It is no doubt a complex transaction and until more details are available, it will not be clear how JTF can assist.

## F. Other Business and Announcements

BNP Community Meeting will be Wed September 9 7:00 to 9:00 at the JCCCNC.

Open Top Sightseeing will conduct a Concierge Tour on Wed September 2, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.