

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

## JTF Board Meeting Monday November 2, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. Union Bank Community Room Closed Session Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:25.

Caryl explained the purpose of the meeting was to begin discussions of the future of the organization. The need to discuss the purpose of the organization and the funding of the organization's future.

Bob opened with the explanation of the various grants and the funding in place today. All are expected to cover ED salary, rent, and insurance expenses to Jun 30, 2010. There are no other fundings that are being pursued at this time.

- MOH/MOED: \$30,000 grant to Jun 30, 2010 for small business assistance.
- SFRDA: \$63,000 grant/personal service contract to Dec 16, 2009 for the formation of a CBD. SFRDA will be requested to extend their grant to Jun 30. Funding for the formation will be dependent on the merchant survey and Dawn's marketing plan for 2010. Currently, without the support of the major property owners including 3D, the formation process will not begin. In which case, it will be requested to reserve the remaining funds of the grant/psc to a future year. Estimated amount to reserve for future is about \$40,000. If the formation is again postponed, Bob will reduce his salary 40% beginning Jan 1.
- MOEWD: \$50,000 grant to Jun 30 for economic development of Japantown. \$25,000 was used in the BNP process to fund the community consultant. The remaining \$25,000 covers 35% of salaries beginning Jan 1, 2009 to Jun 30, 2010.
- PG&E: \$8,000 unrestricted grant to Jun 30, 2010.

Bob has not pursued new fundings due to the uncertain future of the organization in light of BNP implementation, and availability of time. We are grateful for the efforts of Sandy Mori in finding funds for last year with the SF Foundation and Lisa Watada with the Gerbode Foundation. SF Foundation has not been pursued because we understand they are not funding community projects this year. Gerbode told us earlier this year they would not be interested in more than \$14-\$16,000.

Bob reiterated our position on the implementation organization for the BNP which included using the 501c3 status, rename the organization, select a new board and board chair, and select a new ED. The second phase of the BNP expected to take one year will address the issue.

In the meantime, the board needs to address the purpose of JTF and if it is to continue how it will be funded.

Caryl felt if the property owners don't want to support a CBD, JTF probably had little purpose in the coming year. She is impressed by other neighborhoods' merchants, like Ocean

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Avenue, willingness to support a CBD to raise money on marketing and maintenance, inspite of the economy.

There was consensus that no other organization would organize the community for efforts like the BNP, CBD, or Geary BRT. The City has grown to recognize JTF as the clearinghouse for Jtown. We should find ways to fund the continued work of the organization.

Discussions of ways to fund JTF included:

- Finding out if hotel taxes could be a source of funding for JTF?
- Private contractors that build in the neighborhood?
- Wholesalers that supply restaurants in Jtown?
- Corporate foundations?
- Federal money?

Board members were asked to consider leading the funding raising effort. They would be asked to work with Bob to craft the proposal which would be tailored to the funding source's requirements and arrange the introductions.

All board members should email their thoughts and suggestions to Bob. They should investigate the potential of the specific funding source and make a recommendation at our next meeting.

It was suggested that we start our next board meeting on Mon Nov 23 at 5:00 so as to include time to continue the discussions of purpose and funding sources.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.