

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting
Monday July 26, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.
Union Bank Community Room
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sandy Mori, Lisa Watada, Benh Nakajo, Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Ros Tonai, Mark Moriguchi, Caryl Ito,
Staff: Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: John Ware
Absent: Denis Henmi

- A. Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members. There was not a quorum.

Meeting called to order: 6:15 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President

- B. John Ware, SF Parks Trust

- SF PT is funded by private and public foundations, membership dues.
- Best known for saving Conservatory of Flowers (\$25mm)
- Responsible for docents in the Garden.
- Long assn with JTGarden. Completed study 2005 that looked at flora fauna in garden.
- Former director of Japan Society of Chicago and Spencer Stewart (exec search) and former board of JS in SF.
- Trust board would like to see garden renovated, and see the JTG have a increased voice. Example is the fence on the deck behind the Gift Shop.
(So, the fence is only temporary for safety and the fundraiser in Sep?)
- Options: 1. Establish an endowment fund for JTG. \$40,000 available from previous fundraising. Want to raise \$50mm. 2. Form a Friends of JTG or advocacy group to prioritize funding as available.
- There was not a specific request.
- Sandy: Explained too many orgs that do fundraising. She recommended not starting a new org, but to have the Trust start this as a project of the Trust.
- Benh: Clarified there is not an endowment for JTG as part of Trust today. Knows that donors cannot contribute to Rec and Park and specify it to garden.
- Ros: 5% fiscal agent fee is very reasonable.

- C. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 24 meeting will have to be approved at the next meeting.

- D. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources – The financial statements for June 30 will be distributed at the next meeting.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update

- BNP Organizing Committee meeting Tue July 27 is in board package. The CoChairs will be proposing a solicitation of the past and present committee members to solidify the committee. There will be discussion about empowering the committee to vote on recommendations from the subcommittees for changes to the Plan.

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- The addback funding of \$50,000 approved by the Board of Supervisors will be used to pay for consultants to study Japan Center alternatives and community land trusts.
- There will be a meeting on community land trusts on Wed Jul 28 11:00 Union Bank.

MOH/OEWD Business Assistance Grant

- All goals were accomplished for the year. Eight clients, two workshops.
- 2010-11 \$50,000 grant has been approved. Appendix A to the Grant Agreement is in the board package.

JEDM

- Next meeting is Wed Jul 28 11:00 Union Bank
- The Japantown Events Calendar draft is in the board package.
- A farmers market is being proposed. An RFP for an operator has been developed and will be going out shortly.
- Credit Card services has been used by the JCGarage corporation at a substantial savings. Small merchants are needed to try the service.
- Seasonal banners will be designed and paid for from a grant from MOED.
- IRS Tax Loss carryback rules have been amended to allow taxpayers to go back five years to offset current years losses. This could result in tax refunds to merchants.
- Congestion Pricing is a toll on cars that enter a defined area of SF. This could discourage shoppers who drive to Japantown from other parts of the Bay Area. This plan should be objected to by the merchants.

Japan Center Garage Board :

- Hamaguchi has been asked to join the Japan Center Garage Corporation board of directors. With the garage no longer funding JTF there is no present conflict of interest. There is no objection. No action was taken or deemed necessary. He will proceed to accept the nomination.

CPMC EIR

- The EIR for the CPMC project has been released. Public comments will be accepted for 60-days (approximately Oct 19). The BNP Organizing Committee is reviewing and will develop a Japantown position.

E. Other Business and Announcements

The next meeting will be Monday August 23, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.