

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting
Monday August 23, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.
Union Bank Community Room
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lisa Watada, Ros Tonai, Caryl Ito,
Staff: Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: None
Absent: Denis Henmi, Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Benh Nakajo, Ros Tonai

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

Meeting called to order: 6:15 p.m. by Caryl Ito, Vice President

- B. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 24, July 26, and August 23 meetings will have to be approved at the next meeting.

- C. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Better Neighborhood Plan Update

- BNP Organizing Committee is reorganizing. There will be a letter from Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and Director John Rahaim inviting all existing members and past Steering Committee members and others to sign up to participate in a reconstituted Organizing/Steering Committee. The committee has decided to start voting on issues presented. Hopefully, this will encourage a dialogue among the members and keep records of actual decisions and recommendations.
- Part of the \$50,000 add-back money approved by the Supervisors will go towards hiring a consultant that will study the formation of a community land trust to own property in Japantown for the cultural preservation. An estimated \$10,000 will be allocated to Japantown Task Force to provide ombudsman / liaison services to the Burlington Associates. Services are expected to include providing contacts, arranging meetings of key stakeholders, local background information, and to monitor the progress of the study on behalf of the community.
- The progress of the Draft Plan community review will be reported to the Planning Commission on Sep 16. A draft of the memo from the Organizing Committee was in the board package. It includes a progress report from each of the BNP subcommittees.
- The next meeting of the Organizing Committee will be Tue Sep 28 at JCCNC at 6:00.

MOH/OEWD Business Assistance Grant

- In the month of July, one new client was obtained. This is another tenant in the mall who is in need of lease reviews. Two other prospects have been contacted which were referrals from the merchants association.
- There continues to be unrest among the tenants about the rental and CAM increases and new lease terms. Each tenant will need to make its own decision as to its ability to profit faced with the increases.

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- On a positive note, owner appears to be negotiating renewals on a case basis. There have been renewals or month to month arrangements that are at lower rents, including CAM and new advertising fees.

JEDM

- The JEDM Committee will be approving a revised budget for the fiscal 2010-11 period. The revised budget was in the board package. It calls for a \$141,721 budget and funding from MOCI/MOEWD/PGE/Japantown Merchants Assn. The JMA will approve the \$20,500 budget at its Sep 16 meeting.
- The MOED request for \$30,000 has been budgeted and the application is in review at City Hall.

SF Japantown Foundation

- The permits from Mayor's Office of Disability continue to be problematic. It has been over 8 months in their office. It is being held up due to work that the Dept of Rec and Park has to do within the tea garden not associated with the tea house renovation. It is expected that the permits will be issued by Oct. 1.
- The contractor, Len Durham, is prefabricating sections of the renovation at his offsite location in Nevada City. Once onsite it is fully expected that improvements will be completed within 60 days.

Sakura 150 Cherry Blossom Tree Planting on Post Street

- A committee led by Allan Okamoto, being a part of the Karin Maru 150 celebration, has launched a program to plant 150 cherry blossom trees in the Japantown area. The first phase planting is expected to take place on Oct 30 with the planting of 50 trees on Post and Webster and Buchanan Streets.
- Hamaguchi is on the committee and is assisting in getting property owner approvals.
- A matching grant of \$37,500 is being sought from the Community Challenge Grant Program.

E. Other Business and Announcements

- Japan Summit: Lantern Parade will be on Sun Aug 29 5:30.
- Community Clean Up will be held Sat Sep 11 9:00 to Noon.
- The next board meeting will be Monday September 27, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.