

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting
Monday January 24, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.
JACL Headquarters
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Seiko Fujimoto, Denis Henmi, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Lisa Watada, Ros Tonai, Caryl Ito,
Staff: Bob Hamaguchi and Greg Marutani
Guests: None
Absent: Sandy Mori, Doug Dawkins

A. Recognition of Quorum established by 6 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 the August 23 meetings were approved.

C. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Better Neighborhood Plan Update

New Hire – Greg Marutani

- See the Community Aide – Business and Economic Development for list of duties and responsibilities. This position will be only for the five months ending Jun 30, 2011, as it is funded by the grant from MOEWD. Greg will lead the collaboration with Japantown Merchants Association in the planning and formation of a farmers market, lead and organize the planning and installation of new street banners, organize the sidewalk powerwashing, and the planning for a Japantown gift card.

- There was discussion of the gift card idea. The most that is expected during this fiscal year is to get one planned. The implementation will depend on the credit card service that is selected and the JCGarage is doing a trial program with a new company. It is considered a good idea; however, the communication to the merchants was emphasized.

Financial Report – JEDM/MOED funding and goals.

- See the JEDM 2010-11 Source and Application of Funds. This is a breakdown of funding of the grants from PG&E, MOEWD, MOCI, and JMA.
- This the funding sources for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Better Neighborhood Plan

- The Organizing Committee will be reviewing the Summary of Proposed Changes to the Draft BNP. Essentially, it is summary of the many changes that being recommended from the subcommittees that are shown on the Chapter Recommendations. The next step will be the communication of these changes to the community through a community outreach plan.

- The plan is being developed by the Organizing Committee. See the Community Outreach Plan. Current plans call for a series of three community meetings

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professionally facilitated to gather community feedback and support for the changes. In addition, there will be an information booth at Cherry Blossom Festival, an BNP bulletin board in Miyako Mall, and updates on the Planning Department website. The usual posters and newspaper articles will begin Mar 1. The community meetings are scheduled to be: Wed Apr 6 7:00 – 9:00, Mon May 2 7:00 – 9:00, and Sat Jun 4 10:00 to 12:00. All meetings will be held at the JCCCNC.

- The existing plan recommends a community land trust. Funding has been obtained from the Ford Foundation to pay for a consultant, the Burlington Associates, to do a feasibility study for the CLT in Japantown. See the Burlington Associates Technical Delivery Plan for Japantown that shows their deliverables. A steering committee has been organized and the first meeting will be Feb 8. Burlington plans to conduct monthly meetings with the steering committee to recommend a business plan and corporate by-laws, assess the feasibility of community ownership of key commercial properties in Japantown, and develop a messaging strategy. A report of the Feb 8 meeting will be discussed at the Feb board meeting.

E. Other Business and Announcements

There was no new business or announcements.

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