

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting
Monday April 25, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.
Union Bank
Meeting Minutes

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

A. There was not a quorum.

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

The minutes of Feb 24 will have to be approved at a future meeting.

B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director and Greg Marutani, Community Aide

JEDM:

Street Banners – Greg Marutani

The street banner submissions were received April 3. Unfortunately, there was not a clear cut approval of the JEDM committee. It was suggested at that the next meeting a decision will have to be made about how to move forward. It is recommended that we create criteria, limit the size of the subcommittee. We have verified that the MOED grant can be extended.

Farmers Market - Greg Marutani

Greg is doing research into the proposed RFP before it gets sent out. There are many questions, particularly, regarding costs and vendor servicing. San Jose has chose to do all the work in conducting their farmers market. There is a lot more to understand before any RFP goes out. There needs to be a good understanding of how this would operate and there would have to be a much better outreach before proceeding.

BNP

- Approved Community Outreach Plan was in board package. Community meeting dates, facilitation services, publicity, websites, Cherry Blossom Booth, and the budget were all presented. Final dates are: June 1, June 27, July 31, and Sep 10. All will be at the JCCCNC Issei Memorial Hall.
- Topics for Discussion at the meetings were in the board package.
Land Use / Built Form: Community Land Use, Cultural Character, Japan Center
Public Realm/Transportation: Landscape Vision, Public Open Spaces, Transportation Circulation

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

Community Heritage / Community Economic Development: Conserve and enhance Jtown Cultural Heritage, Community Land Trust, Build and Maintain Community in the Future.

- A tour of the Miyako and Kintetsu malls was conducted for the community land trust study. Fred Nicholas, previous owner of the Tanforan Mall, and his son Matt led the tour. His recommendations are:
 - to maintain Jtown's cultural character, it is essential to have capacity to own property, so CLT is a good idea.
 - he was worked with charitable foundations and says we are in a great place for finding this type of capital. SF is known for having caring and generous foundations for community efforts like this.
 - he feels the malls are the most complex ownership mix he has ever seen. Very big issue.
 - he is willing to work with us to list issues and seek solutions. Seifel Consultants will prepare a issues/opportunities/solutions worksheet to begin the process.
 - SFMTA / JCGC issues. The JCGC has had issues with the SFMTA particularly over previously incurred legal expenses. This is interfering with the ability to obtain approval to use JCGC capital reserves for the CLT studies. Will await the response from the Mayor's office which is expected to support the funding.
 - Paul Lord has assured us that funding of staff for planning and environmental review (negative dec) is very likely.

MOH/OWED

- The previously announced \$37,500 grant from MOH/OWED is being increased to \$40,000 for 2011-12.

SF Japantown Foundation

- The Japanese Tea Garden renovation of the tea house and gift shop has been completed. Funding was from the SFJF with a donation from Jack Hirose. There is still work being done by the park on rebuilding a foot bridge that has not been ADA compliant. The work is expected to be completed end of July.
- The SFJF and the park are working on an opening event honoring Jack Hirose. The planned date is evening of Tues Sep 20.

E. Other Business and Announcements

There was no new business or announcements.

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