

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

JTF Board Meeting
Mon Oct 24, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.
JACL
Meeting Minutes

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

A. There was not a quorum.

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

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

Better Neighborhood Plan

The presentation to the Planning Commission will be made on Thur Oct 27, with presentations by Paul Lord, Karen Kai, and me. The October 20 memo to the Planning Commission was reviewed. Several Organizing Committee members are planning to make supporting remarks. This will complete the community outreach phase. It is expected that the four elements can be composed and completed by the end of 2012.

Discussed the Social Heritage District concept being used in Western SOMA that is being proposed for Japantown.

Discussed the Paul Lord concept of not doing a re-write of the plan, but proceed with codifying of four key elements, including a) Social Heritage District, b) Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District, c) Japantown Design Guidelines, and d) community land trust. This concept is being discussed to minimize the environmental review due to lack of funding. This concept has not been approved by the Organizing Committee and there are differing views. It is felt by most that the community is expecting that a new plan will be re-written.

How does this plan promote economic growth? The Japantown NCD Residential Density Analysis handout was reviewed which explains the proposed density recommendation of 1:400 SF. This research was of various Japantown sites to show what the density potential of these sites could be under the 1:400 ratio. This basically supports that enough residential could be developed on these sites within the proposed 55 ft height limit. Research needs to be done that development can be economically feasible. There are applications around the City that indicate that the 1:400 residential density could promote feasible developments.

Japantown Economic Development and Marketing Program (JEDM)

japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

Sandy Mori brought up the security concerns in the mall. Have the merchants been raising concerns about security, because if they are they should be forcing a meeting with the SFPD. There continue to be reports of lesser crimes of car breakins, purse snatchings and stolen personal items. If the merchants aren't going to complain, there is no action recommended at this time.

Small Business Assistance. Two new clients have been engaged. Aaron Nakahara proposes a new family entertainment center. This would feature amusement arcade for children. We have assisted him in getting letters of support from NLF, JCYC, and Japanese Chamber of Commerce. JTF has issued the support letter in the handout package. Bob will be giving public support at the Planning Commission on Nov 3 followed by the Entertainment Commission on Tue Nov 8. Following obtaining approvals, we will be reviewing and assisting in the lease review.

The second client is the Gladstones that are proposing a clothing store in the space next to Andersons. This is very preliminary and the most will be a review of the proposed lease.

KB Café - Discretionary Review. The public hearing is scheduled for Nov 10. A staff recommendation is expected by Nov 3. It is likely this will be continued.

Financial Report. The Seifel contract generated \$10,000. There has been one payment to Sawako Kubo for her publicity and website assistance. The rest will be withheld for future BNP expenses, like meeting space, food, and outreach expenses.

Staff Changes.

Effective Oct 1, Greg and I have reduced our pay to 8 hours per week. Remaining funding source MOCI and PG&E will carry this payroll until June 30, 2012.

It was recommended that we use our next meeting to discuss the future direction and finances of JTF.

C. President's Report from Sandy Mori

SF Japantown Foundation – Jack Hirose Tea House Dedication Oct 27

The event at the tea garden was held on Oct 27 and was a very successful event. It was attended by over 170

D. Other Business and Announcements

There was no new business or announcements.

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