

# japantown task force, inc.

a planning, preservation, and development organization

## **JTF Board Meeting Monday, January 23, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m. JACL Meeting Minutes**

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

### **A. There was not a quorum.**

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

**B. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on October 24, 2011.** Due to lack of quorum, the minutes would have to be approved at the next meeting. It was recommended that the minutes be approved by email.

### **C. Redistricting (Karen Kai/Robert Rusky)**

Redistricting is done after each census every ten years. A Redistricting Task Force is conducting hearings about redistricting and to hear opinions of the proposed boundaries. The objective is for the voting populations of each supervisorial district be within +/- 5% of each other. Thus, boundaries are realigned every ten years.

The task force present proposal shows a boundary line along Geary Blvd. with the north side of Geary in District 2 and the south side would be in District 5. The map of the present proposal was distributed. Also, the current BNP plan area was distributed. Current District 5 northern boundary is California St and keeps all of the BNP plan area in District 5.

Kai explained that an adhoc committee has been formed to organize meetings to discuss the process and what would be best for Japantown. The current boundary is not considered acceptable in that it splits Japantown's stakeholders and Rosa Parks Elementary School's JBBP. There has not been any committee decision that has been recommended; however, she sees the 'community of interest' as including these historic interests south of Geary in the boundary of Japantown and it should remain in District 5. Next committee meeting is Tue Jan 24. A community meeting is being organized to educate the community and get their feedback. It will be held Wed Feb 15 6:00 at JCCCNC. District 2 public meeting is Feb 5. The District 5 public meeting is on Mar 17. We are encouraged to attend all meetings to be most effective.

The board had the following comments. There was no position taken.

1. The educating of the community was key and the community meeting is encouraged and supported.
2. Reality is that the district has changed in demographics and we should not be tied to the history.

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3. There should be a consensus that the proposed boundary on Geary is unacceptable and Japantown BNP boundary is the key priority. As to what district is best for Japantown, there needs to be further discussion.
4. There may be opportunities by being in District 2, thus we should keep an open mind to which district is best for Japantown.

## **D. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director and Greg Marutani, Community Aide**

### JEDM

Greg Marutani updated the board on the JEDM activities. Next JEDM meeting Wed Jan 25. Agenda items include:

Community Clean up dates are being set for the year. There will be four cleanups and dates to be announced. Timing will be concurrent with festivals.

There will be another Cherry Tree Blossom Tree planting being organized by Allen Okamoto for Sat Mar 11.

There will be a Japan Earthquake Relief event on Mar 10-11. Will be organized by the JCCCNC. Details to be announced.

The DPW has committed to replace the news racks with the much improved Pedmounts and we are expecting them in the Spring.

JEDM will coordinate promotion of the Japantown area during the America's Cup this August and September. We plan to organize the merchants to generate interest in coming to Japantown, and we want to promote the tea garden and Japantown as sites for events.

### Small Business Assistance

Our new client, an amusement center business, has chosen a different location in the mall. He will have to process a public announcement and hopes not to have to go back to the Planning Commission.

### Community Land Trust / Community Development Corporation

As previously discussed, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development has encouraged us to go forward in the formation of a community development corporation or community land trust to improve our fundraising ability. The Ford Foundation has embraced the community land trust concept. The MOED is encouraging the CDC. Not wanting to lose either funding source, more research needs to be done on which direction we should take. Bob will discuss with Burlington tomorrow and report back at the next meeting.

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Bob reports that Roy Ikeda has reviewed the JTF corporate by laws and our IRS submission. He feels that the community land trust or CDC activities can be conducted in JTF. However, he is clear that there needs to have more complete charitable and educational purpose. This can come in the form of expanded board memberships and/or combining services.

The group reviewed a programming and budget for 2012-13. We have asked the MOED for a combined request of \$80,000. President Mori asked Hamaguchi to develop a budget that shows that JTF salaries and operating needs without the JEDM activities.

President Mori recommended that we organize a fundraising 2012-13 to keep the organization going to develop this entity. She recommended formation of a committee to meet to develop fundraising. She appointed Caryl Ito and Mark Moriguchi to work with her and Hamaguchi.

## MOCI Grant Request

A copy of the online grant application to MOCI was distributed to the board. The request is for \$80,000. It was recommended that the \$80,000 grant request to MOH/OED for the Small Business Assistance program be approved by a future board action. It could be done by email.

## **E. Other Business and Announcements**

There was no new business or announcements.

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