



JTF Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 20 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.
Union Bank Community Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Miki Heitzman, Alice Kawahatsu, Richard Matsuno, Mark Moriguchi, Steve Nakajima, Benh Nakajo, Ros Tonai Paul Wermer

Staff: Bob Hamaguchi and Greg Marutani, and Greg Vioria

Guests: Linda Corso (Cathedral Hill Associates, LLP), Karen Kai/Cathy Inamasu (Nihomachi Little Friends), Glynis Nakahara, Sandy Mori, Michiko Yamada, Mary Ishisaki, Caryl Ito, Tomo Hirai, Tad Sekino, Karen Kai, Clint Inanmasu, Clint Taura, Ross Guehrig, Jesse Feldman, Sanjeev malhotra, Hiroshi Fukada, Ron Kobata, Rich Hashimoto, Bob Rusky

Absent: Seiko Fujimoto (excused)

A. Call to Order and Establishment of a quorum

Meeting called to order: 6:02 p.m. by Alice Kawahatsu. There was a quorum.

B. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on July 16, 2014.

A motion was made by Paul Wermer and seconded by Richard Matsuno to approve the referenced minutes. There were no changes. The motion passed unanimously.

C. JTF Staff Reports / Committee Reports

Marketing Committee (Greg Vioria)

Greg Vioria reported that July was a busy month for Japantown with



Japan Week, J-pop Summit Festival(Ramen Festival) and Japan Film Festival. Japantown received great press in July and was featured on SF Gate Sunday spread on Food.

Marketing committee is looking to augment and consolidate JEDM, JMA and Marketing Sub-committee meetings to once per month with weekly tactical meetings as needed. More details next month.

No public or board comments noted.

Financial Report (Bob Hamaguchi)

Bob Hamaguchi updated the status of the Add Back Funding. Meeting at MOED with Diana Ponce DeLeon verified that the JTF has to submit a RFP for the Add-back Funds. Bob Hamaguchi reported that all city organizations that have Add-back funding requested have to submit the RFP. RFP is due out in August. JTF has counted on the funding starting July 1. JTF has staff funding to last until end of September. Steve Nakajima reported that his understanding is that the city is requesting a 1.5% budget reduction across all departments. Bob Hamaguchi took an action to contact Supervisor Breed.

No public comments noted.

Crime Reports (Greg Marutani)

Crime has been up in July from last year. Auto Boost is one third of crimes.

Steve Nakajima stated that we should be proactive and requested to get reports posted on the website for people who don't attend the JEDM meeting. Staff took action to look into posting information on the website.

Committee Reports



Land Use / Built Form (Paul Wermer)

Nihonmachi Little Friends "NLF" - Karen Kai, Cathy Inamasu and Tad Sekino (Architect) presented the overall plan of the Nihonmachi Little Friends planned expansion of 1830 Sutter. NLF has done its neighbor outreach. NLF has requested a letter of support from the Japantown Task Force. The Land Use Committee motioned to approve the letter of support. Steve Nakajima seconded the motion.

It was opened for public comment.

Public commented that the project seemed to have harmony with the neighborhood.

It was opened for Board comments and questions.

It was recommended that NLF obtain the support of the neighbors particularly the Japanese Community Cultural Center of Northern California.

Land Use Committee stated that the project design aligns with the historic preservation goals and the outreach has been adequate.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Formula Retail and Signage Position Paper / Letter - Paul Wermer presented to the meeting three(3) documents - JTF Formula Retail Position Paper, Formula Retail Legislation: JTF Letter draft(long) and Formula Retail Legislation: JTF Letter draft(short) which addresses the latest proposed legislations from Supervisor Eric Mar and the Planning Department on Formula Retail. JTF will oppose any increase in trigger points(number of stores) that identify an entity as Formula Retail, and supports inclusion of Formula Retail stores and their subsidiaries in the Formula Retail controls. JTF is also asking for Supervisor London Breed to introduce legislation modifying the Japantown Special Use District regarding New Business Signage. Rosalyn Tonai asked the committee to talk to Supervisor Breed about her position and comments on the



proposed legislation. Paul Wermer motioned to approve the position and letters as written and to allow the Land Use Committee to adopt either the long or short letter. Mark Moriguchi seconded. Alice Kawahatsu asked for public comment.

Public comment – It was suggested that the Land Use committee review the final legislation of Eric Mar and the Planning Commission.

Alice Kawahatsu asked for Board comment prior to vote.

Board Comment – Ros Tonai asked to have the Land Use Committee to talk to Supervisor Breed about her position.

Alice Kawahatsu asked for a vote on Paul Wermer’s motion to approve the position and letters. Motion was passed unanimously.

1481 Post Street Presentation - Bob Hamaguchi introduced Linda Corso of the 1481 Post Street project who did a 15 minute presentation of the project. Handouts were passed out to all the attendees. Developer is asking for height variance, from 240 feet to 398 feet. Overall timeframe for the project is 27 months(Late 2015 start) There will be 262 units planned which will include about 50% 1 bedroom and the rest 2,3 and 4 bedrooms. There was concern from the community about traffic, construction noise and shadow of the new building. There were three alternatives - reduced height alternatives(240ft bldg.), current developer preferred (398 foot bldg.) and the Sequoia's alternative 240ft building which included 12 town homes fronting Geary. The developer's states present preference is beneficial to the community because of more community benefits that can be available. Below market housing will not be onsite and the developer will pay into Mayor's Housing fund. Currently they are doing their community outreach to come up with a set of community benefits that is beneficial for Japantown and will sit down with the mayor's office and Supervisor Breed to negotiate. Comment period for the planning commission on the draft EIR ends September 15th. First



public hearing is September 4 at the Planning Commission. Also SOSSaveCathedralHill.com has more information and comments on the project.

Alice Kawahatsu motioned to refer this topic to the Land Use Committee to gather more input on this project. Rosalyn Tonai seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. New Business

No New Business.

E. Announcements

1. Next JTF Board meeting: Wed Sep 17, 2014 6:00 Union Bank Community Room

F. The meeting adjourned at 7:55p.