

JTF JOC Joint Meeting Jun 18 Highlights

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Following are the highlights of the JTF / JOC Joint Meeting of Wed Jun 18 at Union Bank Community Room.

Attendees:

Bob Hamaguchi, Robert Sakai, Sandy Mori, Greg Vioria, Judy Hamaguchi, Chikara Ushiki, Tomo Hirai, Beau Simon, Karen Kai, Paul Wermer, Michiko Yamada, Ben Kobashigawa, Alice Kawahatsu, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai, Seiko Fujimoto, Greg Marutani, Bernie Choden, Walter Kaye, Hiroshi Fukuda, Marlayne Morgan, Kathie Cheatham, Richard Matsuno, Miki Heitzman, Steve Nakajima, Ben Kobashigawa

Handouts:

- DRAFT Design Guidelines - Response to Planning Department
- DRAFT Japantown Merchants Assn - Marketing Brochure
- Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
- Grant for the Arts Email

Business Watch Group (Victor L)

- Victor is owner of Kitachi in the West Mall.
- 30 merchant members that have been through orientation.
- Next opportunity will be Tues Jun 24 3:00 at Union Bank.
- Be On The Look Out (BOLO) Alerts are working well.
- SF SAFE will be advising us on surveillance system.

District Attorney Office Grant (Bob H)

- JTF has obtained a \$3,000 grant from the DA Office that will be used to support the BWG.

1481 Post Street - Seniors on the Hill Meeting Report (Sandy M, Marlayne M, Kathie C)

- SH group organized to oppose the 1481 proposal to exceed the height limits. Not opposed to a project on the site. An alternative development has been proposed by the group.
- Marlayne briefly described the alternative proposal by Seniors on the Hill. Historically, the planning during Redevelopment was for a scattering of heights on the hill. The 1481 proposal is a 414 ft tower, 140 over the height limit, luxury market rate condos, no public space, and no commercial, with no tower separation with Sequoias. The alternative proposal is recognized by Planning as environmentally superior to the proposed project. The alternative does not exceed current zoning. It is 240 ft with series of townhouses on Post and Geary. The total sq ft is within 2% of 1481 proposal. General reception at presentations of the alternatives has been positive. We are all disappointed that the project sponsor has not done any outreach and that repeated attempts to have them come to Jtown have been made to no avail.

JMA Website and Brochure (Greg V)

- New design of JMA website has gone live today. In the 2-week quality assurance period we are accepting changes and edits to the release.
- A new brochure (see draft) has been developed to accompany the website release that will be distributed around the City to attract visitors to Jtown. There will be 10,000 distributed by Jul 15. Resources are available at City to assist with future revisions to website.
- It is recommended that we get signage on the 38 bus line. Budget permitting.

Geary BRT CAC Meeting Minutes

- The minutes include comment that the staff is recommending removal of the pedestrian bridge at Webster and there has been little or no objection. I know that in Jtown there are many opposing views. Feedback is needed. Rich Hashimoto, our representative on CAC, will be advising staff to take a closer look at retaining/renovating the bridge.
- The stops have been amended to include Laguna and Webster and taking out Buchanan. There is still a proposed signaled crosswalk at Buchanan.

JTF Reorganization (Bob)

- Purposes/Guidelines/3 Year Operating Plan is considered final and will be handed off to the new JTF board. Of course, it is a working document, so revisions will be continually made.
- This is the last meeting of the joint committee. The future meetings will be JTF Board Meetings. All meetings will be open to the public and all are expected to continue to attend.

JTF Board Nominations (Sandy M)

- The online voting results for the slate of board members was as follows: 35 eligible JTF and JOC members; 27 voted (18 required); 22 yes; 5 no. The slate was approved. The slate will be officially voted onto the JTF Board next Monday Jun 23, 6:00 at JACL.

DRAFT Design Guidelines (Chikara)

- DRAFT of Responses to Maia (Planning Department). This draft is Chikara's draft response to questions raised by the Planning Department to the first draft. Generally, Chikara points out this is the first set of Design Guidelines developed by a community. There is no precedence. The next step is for Planning to put in draft for a wider distribution among property owners and community.
- It was recommended that community members experienced in planning and architecture be brought in the process. Names mentioned included Sara Ishikawa, Asa Hanamoto, and Ken Kaji.

Grant for the Arts (Karen K)

- An email from SF Arts Town Hall Organizing Committee was distributed. It outlines that there is a proposal to cut \$1mm of GFTA funds and seeks letters objecting to the transfer claiming it will reduce the funding to artists and organizations.
- It was recommended that we contact various art groups in Jtown to better understand the likely impact. Ros T will discuss with Francis Wong and advise our actions.
- I will contact Rich Hashimoto to check impact on Cherry Blossom funding, if at all.

Northern Station SFPD Report (Greg M)

- Beat officer for Japantown is likely deferred for 3-6 months due to continued understaffing. Until Northern Station staffing gets to 100 officers they cannot increase the beat officers.



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