



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

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ATTENDEES: Alice Kawahatsu, Judy Hamaguchi, Richard Hashimoto, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Jon Osaki, Glynis Nakahara, Benh Nakajo, Beau Simon, Clint Taura

ABSENT: Seiko Fujimoto, Neal Taniguchi, Rosalyn Tonai.

STAFF: Greg Marutani

GUESTS: Emily Cardenas, Chris Chin, Julie Yumi Hatta, Karen Kai, Steve Nakajo, Tomo Hirai, Nancy Nagano, Robert Rusky..

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

Sandy Mori introduced Michael Chin who is the owner of Café Maiko in the Kinokuniya Building. He provided a brief background about his interest in bringing the dessert style items to San Francisco. He added he hopes to open in the next four weeks.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of January 17, 2018

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Jon Osaki to accept the draft minutes from the January 17, 2018 meeting as submitted.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use Transportation Committee

1. Geary BRT Buchanan Median Update

Glynis Nakahara shared the final designs of the panels that would be placed in the Buchanan Median by the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to include their budget proposal.

2. Recommendation to send a Letter of Support for SF Buddhist Church Request to Postpone Sale of Buddhist Churches of America Site

Glynis Nakahara referenced the memo from the LUT Committee regarding the recommendation a letter from JTF be sent to the National Buddhist Council delegates that would be meeting in Sacramento on February 23-24, 2018 and would be voting on the sale of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) building at 1710 Octavia, which is adjacent to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco (BCSF) at 1881 Pine Street.

Alice Kawahatsu asked if there was a possible conflict of interest (COI) regarding this item.

Beau Simon indicated that his firm had worked with the BCSF many years ago. Sandy Mori and Glynis Nakahara indicated they were members of the BCSF.

Julie Yumi Hatta, a board member of the BCSF stated a letter from the JTF would be greatly appreciated and believes would be beneficial in their request for a delay in the vote to allow more time to seek a resolution that would better meet the concerns of the BCA and BCSF.

Sandy Mori expressed her concern on the tone of the draft letter suggesting that it should be revised.

It was moved by Jon Osaki and seconded by Richard Hashimoto that the JTF Board authorize the Executive Committee to send a letter supporting the SF Buddhist Church request to postpone formal action on the sale of the Buddhist Churches of America property, recognizing the vote would take place on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

B. Cultural Heritage Committee

JTF Board Consideration of Support of the Legacy Business Program

In Rosalyn Tonai's absence, Sandy Mori recommended the Board endorse the Legacy Business Program sponsored by the City and that JTF would provide assistance and support for eligible businesses in Japantown who apply for this special status.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Benh Nakajo that the JTF endorse the City's Legacy Business program.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

C. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Ad Hoc Committee

Richard Hashimoto reported that the next meeting would be Tuesday, February 27, 2018 in the Community Room of Union Bank and start at 5:00 p.m.

Sandy Mori added that the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) was requested by JTF to set aside \$100,000 to begin work on the redesign on the Peace Plaza.

However, she added that it is crucial that all of the commissioners on the RPD are contacted, preferably through a personal contact about the need to repair the Peace Plaza and seek their support of adding this project to the proposed 2019 RPD Park bond measure. JTF will participate in the 2019 Park Bond process.

D. Economic Development/Marketing

Future Working Together with JEDM/JCBD/JMA

Alice reported that she continues to attend the Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD) meetings whenever possible.

Sandy Mori added that there are plans to set up quarterly meetings with JCBD, JEDM, and Japantown Merchants Association (JMA) to coordinate marketing and economic development efforts and minimize possible duplication of efforts.

E. Finance Committee

Mark Moriguchi asked if there were any questions about his monthly financial report. There were none.

IV. UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sandy Mori announced the following:

A. the Executive Committee would be reviewing the current JTF Bylaws and present any proposed revisions to the full Board at a future date.

B. Staffing Information: Coco Tando is employed part time with the JCBD and no longer working on behalf of the JTF

The hours for Greg Marutani as Community Aide have been reduced from 32 to 24 hours per week.

C. The JTF made a \$100.00 contribution to the request from the API Council to support the Mayor Ed Lee Scholarship Fund operated by the RPD to subsidize or cover the cost for youth to participate in their summer programs.

D. The work of the Search Committee included soliciting through an ad in the Nichi Bei Weekly and an article in the Nikkei West, outreach through the Vertical Response list of e-mails compiled by JTF of over 700 addresses. The Search Committee, after a paper review, would narrow down the number to one or two candidates for a closed full Board interview currently planned for mid-March.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update from the Ad Hoc Committee to Allocate Donated Funds in Memory of Bob Hamaguchi

Rich Hashimoto reported that the fund is approximately \$10,000 in JTF's account. He indicated that donations were also received by the Japantown Foundation in Bob's memory.

The committee is considering donating the JTF funds to the SF Japantown Foundation develop an internship or scholarship program in Bob's memory.

Jon Osaki indicated that JCYC also administers scholarship programs.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Code of Conduct Policy

Sandy Mori asked if there were any comments about the Code of Conduct (COC) document included in the Board packet.

Beau Simon stated that he was unsure if the document was to summarize California laws or offer additional requirements that the JTF chooses to add to its documents.

Sandy Mori said she would speak with Don Tamaki who provided the initial language that was obtained from Coblenz, Patch, Duffy, & Bass, LLP and bring his comments/recommendations back to the Board.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

A question was raised regarding the “public comment” statement included in the JTF agenda as it appears it may limit what may be addressed during this part of the agenda.

Sandy Mori said this concern would be reviewed and addressed.

A comment was made that the JT agenda was not accessible to the public. This will be corrected.

Staff responded

There was a suggestion to name a portion of the Buchanan Median Yori Wada Way and the other portion named Leroy King Way as it would be an opportunity for the community to educate the public as Leroy King was very instrumental in the development of St. Francis Square and Yori Wada was both a director at the Buchanan YMCA for a number of years and involved in Japantown in many projects and programs.

Another recommendation was to consider including the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC), 3D Investments, Kinokuniya, to possibly be included in the quarterly joint meetings regarding the Economic Development and Marketing Committee

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clint Taura shared some photos of the “deep clean” done around 2:30 a.m. in the Buchanan Mall and some portion of Sutter and Post Streets.

Richard Hashimoto noted that a water truck has recently washed down the streets in Japantown.

Saturday, March 3, 2018: JACL-San Francisco Chapter Spaghetti Crab Feed fundraiser to benefit the production of the documentary film, “Alternative Facts” For information contact Judy Hamaguchi.

Richard Hashimoto announced that March 28, 2018, which was the official opening of the Japan Center Malls with a major event planned for October 20, 2018.

He went on to seek JTF support on a letter to solicit sponsorship and underwriting of the events and depending on the level of funding could be recognized on the banners. He indicated that there is a budget of \$25,000 by 3D allocated to Straus for the events.

It was a consensus of the Board that JTF would not solicit funds for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hamaguchi
Secretary