

**NOTES FROM THE
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**

1684 POST STREET
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ros Tonai, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Desirée Smith, Tim Frye, Karen Kai, Patty Wada

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Landmarking of Pagoda and/or the Peace Plaza

Desirée Lloyd provided a brief update on the status of the 2005 draft Landmark Designation Report on the Peace Plaza and Pagoda.

Rosalyn was asked by Desirée Smith to send her the digital oral history tape, primarily by George Yamasaki as well as any e-mails containing the quotes Ros sent to Jonathan Lammers so she could read them and make her selections to include in the report.

Rather transcribe the one-hour taped interview with George Yamasaki it was recommended that some individuals (Seiko Fujimoto, Allen Okamoto, Micky Imura George, Yamasaki, Shiz Mihara) be invited to meet with Desirée and Tim who would “interview” them about their remembrances about Japantown, Redevelopment, and the Japan Cultural and Trade Center

Tim Frye Historic Restoration Evaluation Report (HRER) Rec. Park would [it would be better to be landmarked prior to any work being done.

Desiree reviewed the character defining features of the Peace Pagoda and Peace Plaza, in the draft report noting that the Pagoda remains “original” while much of the Plaza has been altered from the “original.”

It was the consensus that the Committee present the draft report to the JTF Board at the April 19, 2017 meeting as information, recommend a special meeting of the Cultural Heritage and Land Use Committees, and the JTF ad hoc committee assigned to address the remediation of the leaks in the Peace Plaza with the intent to ensure “everyone is on the same page.”

Tim offered to provide a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about what impact landmarking would have on a property/structure.

The Committee will review the final report in May and submit a recommendation to the JTF Board to send a letter of endorsement to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to landmark the Peace Plaza and Peace Pagoda.

Should things proceed as anticipated this item would be scheduled for the June 21 HPC meeting for its first hearing, then the second hearing in July 19.

As the Board of Supervisors does not hold regular meetings in August, the earliest it would go before the Board of Supervisor would be in September.

B. Update on Nihonmachi Little Friends Seeking SF Legacy Business Designation

Will meet with Supervisor Breed on Wednesday, April 13. Donna Graves may need to do further research on the historical significance of the building.

Benkyodo, Soko Hardware,

C. Update on Ruth Asawa Fountains

Members of the Committee were uncertain as to how to proceed, if at all, regarding repairing the fountains due in large part to the cobblestone "stream" being a potential hazard due to its unevenness and not being compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the differing perspectives as to whether changes to the cobblestones would change the intent of Ruth Asawa's design.

It was suggested that a master plan for the repair and restoration of the Peace Pagoda, repair of the Peace Plaza, and the repair of the Ruth Asawa Fountains, and the cobblestones be addressed through a master plan rather than piecemeal steps.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Cultural Heritage, Land Use, and the ad hoc committee focused on the remediation report of the Peace Plaza at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the JACL.