



**NOTES FROM THE  
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE  
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1765 SUTTER STREET  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Wermer, David Ishida, Glynis Nakahara, Jon Osaki, Alice Kawahatsu

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Eben Marsh, Robert Sakai, Kathie Cheatham, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Rose Hillson, Marlayne Morgan, Michiko Yamada, Reverend Arnold Townsend

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:**

Eben Marsh is seeking to open up a Pinot's Palette studio, which is a franchise business at 1881 Sutter Street. He is hosting a community meeting on Tuesday, May 26. The business is to conduct group painting classes and serving wine and beer ('paint and sip'). Classes are for individuals or groups looking for an alternative form of entertainment and fun. Business hours would be from Noon to 10:00 p.m. There will be non-alcoholic drinks as well. Unfortunately, because of California law, no one under 21 will be allowed to enter premises, so children's programs are not permitted. Going through the permit process he may have to resort to obtaining an expeditor.

Eben is seeking a Conditional Use approval due to the business being formula retail.

Questions were posed including what is community outreach, what is the zoning category of the property: maintain closing at 10:00 p.m.; Mr. Marsh said he would get back to JTF with the answers when he appears before the JTF Board on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

The committee consensus was to approve the support of the application subject to:

1. Business hours not be later than 10:00 p.m.
2. Clarification of uses of the site if this business fails. CU runs with the land and we want to be sure that only acceptable businesses could replace this applicant.
3. Commitments to join the JMA, participate in neighborhood events and organizations.

**1481 POST STREET:**

Paul reported that Linda Corso had to postpone meeting with the Land Use Committee based on the issues presented by the Committee; she reassured Paul that they would attend the June 9, 2015 meeting and that there is plenty of time before any formal action will be taken.

After a number of comments and concerns expressed by those present Paul stated he would recommend that the JTF meet with other stakeholders, in particular the African American community to discuss areas of concern and possibly find common ground regarding the project.

### **LANDMARKING OF PEACE PAGODA (PEACE PLAZA):**

Bob shared the results of the Cultural Heritage meeting regarding the designation of landmark status for the Peace Pagoda and possibly the Peace Plaza as well.

Opposition was expressed in landmarking the Peace Plaza because it lacks much integrity based on the original design and installation while others believe it is necessary for attention to be drawn to the "historic" landmark.

All were encouraged to attend the community meeting on Wed May 27 6:00 to 7:30 at the Union Bank.

### **GEARY BRT:**

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Geary Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposed by the SF County Transit Authority (SFCTA) is projected to be issued sometime in July for review and comment. The proposed plan still shows that the Webster Street Bridge being removed. Bob added that the community is very concerned about their alternatives to have a safe crossing of Geary, in particular children and the elderly.

It was decided to invite a representative from the Geary BRT to the next Land Use Committee (June 9, 2015) meeting.

### **NOISE / VIBRATION CONTROLS:**

Paul stated he would send out the responses he received from Steve Wertheim regarding the position taken by the Planning Department on the issues related to the Noise and Vibration Controls. Paul and Bob are attempting to arrange a meeting with Conor Johnston, aide to Board President London Breed to discuss the items that the Planning Department declined to support.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Notice of Pre-Application to construct a six unit building "behind" Hotel Tomo (1801 Buchanan Street). A Pre-Application meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, at 1420 Sutter Street.

Nihonmachi Little Friends is hosting a fund raising event on Sunday, May 17, 2015 screening "Infinity & Chashu Ramen" at 1830 Sutter Street with showings at Noon and 2:30 p.m..

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be Tuesday for June 9, 2015 at 1765 Sutter Street.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.