



**NOTES FROM THE
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
1684 POST STREET
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015**

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Rosalyn Tonai, Seiko Fujimoto- co-chairs Judy Hamaguchi. Rich Hashimoto, Anthony Brown, Glynis Nakahara, Alice Kawahatsu

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patty Wada, Geri Handa, Karen Kai, Merry Nishimura, Jill Shiraki, Mickey Imura, Shiz Mihara

The meeting began at 12:10 p.m.

LANDMARKING THE PAGODA

Bob reminded the group that the JCHESS plan includes an effort to landmark possibly three sites in Japantown, including the Peace Pagoda. He said nothing will proceed until all the City departments can be unified on the approach.

Richard Hashimoto of the Japan Center (JCG) and Bob will follow up with their initial meeting they had with Phil Ginsberg department head of Recreation and Parks Department.

Rich added that the leakage through the Plaza and into the JCG and impacting the integrity of the concrete. He believes that repair work will need to be done soon.

Judy reminded everyone that the Committee was to provide her with names of individuals that she should contact who have information and testimony about the Peace Plaza.

It was restated that Jonathan Lammers is still seeking original plans for the Peace Plaza and the 2001 redesign. Patty offered to contact Tami Suzuki at the SF Main Library to see if she can find these plans and drawings from the SF Redevelopment Agency.

Although, not originally intended, it was requested that these additions be incorporated into Lammer's final draft prior to public comment. An inquiry will be made.

RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS IN BUCHANAN MALL

A date for the completion of the assessment of the repair to the fountains plumbing should be available soon. .

BUCHANAN MALL

The Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) has engaged Joto Construction to refurbish the benches in the Buchanan Mall that will include armrests in the middle of each bench. This project is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2015. Partial funding for this project is provided by the Mayor's Office of Invest In Neighborhoods (IIN).

The shoji-style wood grating that was broken some time ago is also scheduled to be replaced by June 30, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

The SF Arts Commission has selected Japantown for their annual Passport Program. They select the twelve to fourteen artists and invite the community to refer a few local artists. Local businesses would provide a table for the artist to sit inside their storefront for the one-day event. Scheduled in October, the Passport Program is a way for SF artists to help promote business at local establishments. The blank "passports" are purchased by the visitors for \$25 who in turn to visit participating establishments to collect "stamped" artwork Merchants can offer discounts, coupons to encourage visitor traffic. JTF through this subcommittee would like to recommend to the Arts Commission names of local artists from the community. Please forward your recommendations to staff by this Friday, June 12.

Nihonmachi Street Fair will recognize the 70th Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Anthony Brown has created a new musical score to be presented at several concert venues throughout the City, including Streetfair and the Asian Art Musuem.

An inter-faith commemoration of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki is in the works. More details to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Japantown Merchants Association (JMA) Obon will take place on June 28, 2015

- July 9 Mashi Book Tour (First postwar Japanese ballplayer Masunori Murakami who played with the SF Giants) 6:00 p.m. at the Main SF Public Library

- July 10 Mashi Book Tour 10:00 a,m, at the Kinokuniya Bookstore.
Special luncheon will be held for Masanori Murakami at Mifune Bistro.

SF JACL is sponsoring Masunori Murakami scholarship application from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for qualified high school and collegescholar-athletes. . Funds were raised from a golf tournament held last year.

- June 20 Konko Yard Sale will also include a small organic farmer's market.

- June 27 Nat'l Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) Open House at Building 640. Atomic bomb survivor Takashi Tanemori's life & works are featured.

- August 1,2 Nihonmachi Street Fair will recognize the 70th Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Anthony Brown will debut special musical score.

A commemoration of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki is in the works. More details to follow.

- Sept. 12-13 Japan's Medical team will be at St. Mary's Medical Center to screen individuals affected by the atomic bomb blasts.

The next meeting will be at Noon, Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at the NJAHS,

The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.