



**NOTES FROM THE  
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE  
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Wermer, Chair; Richard Matsuno

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hiroshi Fukuda, Karen Kai, Robert Sakai, Robert Rusky

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Wermer, Chair of the Land Use Committee (LUC)

**1481 Post - DEIR (DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT) COMMENT LETTER**

Paul distributed the draft of the comment letter which is based on previously distributed points of concerns. The Board authorized the LUC to draft a comment letter, with the final version to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of JTF.

There was discussion about adding the impact on the wind that would be created by the 1481 Post building. A brief sentence would be added about the wind and its potential impact on the seniors who live in the neighborhood. Paul will also include a brief statement about the purpose of JTF and implementing the approved the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS) as well as the impact the structure will contribute to the cumulative impact of the projects along the four-block corridor on Geary between Laguna to Van Ness Avenue in creating a "wall."

Paul requested that questions be sent to him so he can prepare a list that would be shared with the developer at the appropriate time.

Paul also recommended that the issue on height limits be re-affirmed/ratified to make it clear that though there is no specified height limit in JCHESS, it favored retaining the height limits with the five-foot allowance that is now required for ground level requirements along Post Street.

**JAPANTOWN DESIGN GUIDELINES**

Karen reported that the draft guidelines are back in the Planning Department's court; she anticipates the draft will be available for another review in time to finalize the draft. There was a recommendation that the guidelines include period photographs of what the neighborhood looked like. Planning anticipated having a draft ready for the Oct JTF Board meeting.

**JAPANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (NCD)**

Karen reported that there may have been some confusion as the Planning Department staff wanted to wait until the guidelines were finalized but it appears that the NCD could and should move forward as soon as possible.

The LUC will seek approval from the JTF Board to move forward with the Japantown NCD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.