



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

NOTES FROM THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

1765 SUTTER STREET

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Paul Wermer, Glynis Nakahara

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Robert Rusky

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

GEARY BRT (BUS RAPID TRANSIT)

It was reported that at the Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Commission meeting on September 28, 2016 the SF Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) staff recommended keeping the Laguna bus stop as a “Local” only stop.

Paul said he would work with Kathy Cheatham from Seniors on the Hill to possibly meet face-to-face with the supervisors who are on the SF County Transportation Authority (SFCTA).

It was the recommendation of the LU/T Committee that the JTF send a letter requesting that the Laguna stop be a “Rapid” as well as a “Local” stop, as originally requested by the JTF, in particular to serve Japantown merchants, the high concentration of seniors in the neighborhood, who would be impacted by the SFMTA staff recommendation.

It was also the recommendation of the LU/T Committee that a letter on JTF letterhead be prepared that requests the Laguna stop be a “Rapid” stop and signed by various groups such as Kimochi, Inc., Nihonmachi Terrace, Kokoro Assisted Living Facility and the nearby churches.

The LU/T Committee is recommending that the JTF request the SFMTA that the funds saved from not demolishing the Webster Street Bridge be designated to repair and restore the Bridge and streetscape improvements.

DRAFT DESIGN GUIDELINES FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Glynis Nakahara reported that the August 5, 2016 version of the draft design guidelines appear to be directed toward major developments in the City. She added that the LU/T Committee may want to reconfigure its draft design guidelines for Japantown to follow the Planning Department’s format. She will report back to the LU/T.

UPDATE ON THE LANDMARKING OF THE PEACE PLAZA AND PAGODA

It has been reported that the assessment on the condition of the Peace Plaza has been completed and submitted to the Department of Public Works (DPW), which funded the project. However, the report has not been shared with JTF.

Glynis said he would reach out to one of her contacts to see if a PDF version could be shared with the JTF sooner rather than later and report back to the LU/T.

UPDATE ON RUTH ASAWA ORIGAMI FOUNTAINS

While this item was initially referred to the Cultural Heritage (CH) Committee it was their desire to forward it to the LU/T because that the decision to move forward would require the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) to move the repair of the fountains with DPW. As the assessment that was completed focused on determining what would be needed to repair the fountains and did not include the replacement of the cobblestones with an alternative that would minimize the liability the NPC would not endorse the repair of the fountains.

There remains an uncertainty as to whether the cobblestone “river” is a part of the SF Arts Commission work or if it was added as part of the design to enhance the area around the fountains. Without confirmation of which department is responsible for the “river” no progress has been made toward resolving the “river.”

Glynis offered to reach out to one of her contacts to find out if the “river” is officially a part of the SF Arts Commission and report back to the LU/T.

Paul agreed to check with Robert Sakai on the status of the Request For Qualification (RFQ) that the NPC was developing regarding possible development on the two parking lots adjacent to the Buchanan Mall for the next LU/T meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at the JAACL HQ.