



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 8, 2019

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Ros Tonai, Kenta Takamori, Coco Tando, Sandy Mori

STAFF PRESENT:

Nina Bazan-Sakamoto

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeremy Chan, Karen Kai, Bob Rusky, Linda Walsh

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BIKESHARE UPDATE

There will be a hearing for the new bike station on Post (west of Webster) in December. Because it's a new location, the process has restarted. Adrian said that SFMTA will not move forward with the Sutter St stop until the Post stop has been vetted.

JTF has already sent a letter supporting the Post station and appealing the Sutter station.

It was suggested to regularly email the minutes from the previous meetings.

CULTURAL DISTRICT GRANT OVERVIEW

Nina Bazan-Sakamoto spoke about the Cultural District. The Cultural District team has been meeting every week, using butcher paper to define the six initiatives to a concise goal and vision. They have also been meeting with city staff.

They received an outline of CHHESS report form the City. 25% will be a snapshot of the Japantown Cultural District, and 75% will be based on the implementation strategies.

They also met with FMA financial management, to create a sustainable financial model.

The Cultural District Initiative has submitted a press release in Rafu Shimpo, Nichi Bei Weekly, BaySpo, and Nikkei West introducing the Japantown Cultural District.

The CDI has developed the programming for Aki Matsuri, focusing on celebrating the harvest and connecting that to a bountiful, healthy community. The JTF Visitor Center cart will be present. The CDI will have flyers for the community town hall meeting. Nina will be co-emceeing.

The community town hall meeting will be on Thursday November 14 6-8pm in the Issei Memorial

Hall. At that meeting, the Japantown Cultural District will be explained, and get feedback/input from the community at large. There will be presenters and breakout sessions. Nina is also working on a youth art project to get youth involved, having them envision what the future of Japantown should look like. There will be four workshops - two with Japantown Youth Leaders (JYL) high schoolers, and two with Nihonmachi Little Friends preschoolers. One has already happened.

The CDI team has also met with Executive Directors, dividing the list amongst the team. They are working on a CDI logo which they will discuss during tomorrow's meeting and look into

Nina said that the CDI team would like the LUT committee go through the same process of connecting the strategies to the CHHESS categories.

Coco outlined the process that the Cultural Heritage committee went through. She referred to the JCHESS report - "A" strategies denoted existing strategies, whereas "B" strategies denoted proposed strategies. The Cultural Heritage committee aligned the JCHESS strategies with the CHHESS strategies. Several of them overlap into multiple categories.

Coco said that the CHHESS strategies are malleable and can be retitled and redefined. Kenta commented that several of the CHHESS strategies are unclear. Coco discussed the Cultural Competency category, and how the interpretation of that category morphed to proposing strategies for the city to implement to provide culturally competent services.

Kenta asked if the 6 categories could be reduced to 4. Coco said the categories can be mixed and matched.

Karen commented and Coco clarified that Economic / Workforce Development was accidentally left off of the printed matrix handout.

Glynis asked about how the conversations with the Executive Directors and the public. Nina said that for Executive Directors, the CDI team has been introducing the Cultural District and how it's relevant to them, followed by asking questions to see where the organizations are at - including challenges, whether they have infrastructure to sustain into the future, and input that they have with respect to promoting the sustainability of Japantown and the JA community.

Glynis asked about what the November community meeting will look like. Nina said it's still in the works. City staff and the CDI team will introduce the JCD. Then there will be break out groups based on the six initiatives. Participants can define what that category means to them, and add goals and vision items.

The second meeting will have more focus groups around each topic. Glynis asked if prioritization will occur.

Nina clarified that after the JCHESS strategies are aligned with the CHHESS strategies, the next step will be to propose additional strategies.

Glynis asked about the "landscaping" notes. Glynis said that landscaping is already done.

Bob asked what the city is planning to do with the CHHESS report. Nina said it will go to the Board of Supervisors to approve, but that the document is more for the community to determine which action items to implement. Bob clarified that JCHESS was an organizing statement for the community that the City adopted as city policy. Sandy said that the purpose of the CCHHESS report

is for the cultural district to define its goals and priorities.

Sandy commented that Linda and St. Francis Square would be a good focus group to get input on. She said that each committee member could give input on focus groups and strategies.

Karen commented that JCHESS has already been approved by the supervisors as a statement. Sandy commented that JCHESS was used as a model for CCHES. Karen asked to clarify CCHES's purpose in relation to JCHESS. Sandy clarified that JCHESS serves as the foundation for CCHES, updated to a current context. The community / neighborhood can set the tone for what the CCHES should be.

Glynis drew a diagram. The JCHESS + supplementary issues will become the CCHES. Karen emphasized that unlike the other Cultural Districts, JTown already has an existing document (JCHESS), so it's important to brand CCHES as an extension of JCHESS.

Coco said that the purpose of aligning the JCHESS strategies with CCHES categories is to see which categories are stronger and which may need more attention.

Karen suggested the land use committee should look at the Land Use category and rewrite the section to encompass everything that JTF has accomplished with respect to Land Use. Bob highlighted that the categories are only a rough approximation of how this plays out in real life; for example, how JTF committees often overlapped.

Jeremy asked about the timeline re: adding on strategies and prioritizing strategies. Nina said that after the JCHESS and CHHES report are compared, new strategies can be suggested. Nina clarified that the community meeting will be for suggesting strategies. Coco said that prioritizing will inevitably be discussed and that the CDI team should take a note of that input. Bob highlighted that JCHESS's timeline was similarly malleable because folks would comment about different phases at once (suggesting new strategies, prioritization, etc.)

There was a discussion about the extent to which tenant protection fits under Land Use. For Japantown, commercial tenants are especially vulnerable. Karen said that we need more guidance from other sources, including the City and the Mission District, with respect to this issue. It would be helpful to see how the Mission District is addressing protections for tenants and businesses.

Glynis commented about how a strategy around resiliency and public safety (i.e. public safety plan) should be added. Nina commented how the title of Land Use has been changed to Land Use / Environmental Resilience. Glynis said to reach out to groups like MEDA (Mission Economic Development Agency) regarding this.

It was discussed that the Neighborhood Commercial District has been accomplished.

Karen said she would provide the map for the cultural district, which came from the Better Neighborhood Plan (BNP), the predecessor to JCHESS. Karen clarified that what went into the CDI proposal did not reflect the boundaries used in JCHESS.

The next steps will be for LUT to get the updated version of the chart and then provide revisions, tweaks, and/or different conceptual views. Nina also asked to provide input on the category definitions.

Nina said it would be helpful to have LUT input before the November 14 meeting. She later retracted that, because she clarified that the A's and B's will not be discussed at the November 14 meeting due to lack of time.

Karen suggested that LUT start with Land Use, and then look at the other topics through that lens.

Kenta suggested to clean up the 6 categories before November 14, because the community will be providing input on those categories. Kenta said that the CDI may lose credibility if the categories are ill defined or confusing.

Glynis said that for the community meeting, education will be a large piece, and so the input will be really elementary. The focus input will come later. Nina said the meeting will also discuss how people can be more involved, and that future meetings will discuss the nitty gritty.

Ros and Karen said the community meeting should discuss how the CHHESS builds upon JCHESS. Ros said that Grev Vilorio and Bob Hamaguchi put together a slideshow to explain JCHESS.

Karen stressed the importance of making people feel like they can meaningfully contribute to the process. Linda and Glynis suggested timelines, pictures, and other visual aids.

Nina commented that the Cultural Competency section has been morphed into community policies / protocols.

Nina said that the revised definitions will be sent out to review.

Kenta suggested an overlapping venn diagram of "Culture," "Structure," and "Organizations" to clarify the topics.

Jeremy asked if the CDI could share the category definitions with the committee, to discuss during the working meeting. It was discussed that a draft of the category definitions could be sent out; it does not have to be finalized. Nina said she would ask the CDI team to confirm.

PLANNING INITIATIVES

Several months ago, this committee discussed long term / large scale questions about land use. Glynis asked if the Cultural District framework will encompass this.

Bob said that they overlap but are not the same, and that those similarities/differences may show up in the discussion process. Jeremy said that the Cultural District framework will probably encompass any long term strategies about land use. Kenta said that there maybe certain topics that Land Use can do a deep dive on certain issues.

Sandy asked how Land Use views the future of the Malls. The covenants on the Japan Center Mall expire in 2021, and stressed that Japantown should be ahead of the curve. Sandy has asked the planning commission if there's anything they can do. Sandy asked if this committee would be the one to look at that issue.

Bob said the JCCNC research funded by the Ford Foundation about a land trust was intended to apply for the Malls. Sandy said that Mirkarimi / the city put together a whitepaper, but that it may not have necessarily been inputted. Ros said that a land trust is one solution among multiple

solutions that should be looked at.

Glynis said the malls seems like a land use issue. Bob also commented that its a cultural issue.

Sandy said that Hotel Kabuki, Union Bank, Pa'ina, and AMC are all separate owners of the adjacent mall property. Sandy clarified that only 3D Investments is affected by the covenants.

Karen said that JTF is going to need to pay for legal counsel. She suggested if Don Tamaki would be willing to represent JTF, because Minami Tamaki wrote the agreement.

A community benefits agreement was discussed as another possible alternative. It was asked to what extent the City would be able to help with this issue.

Ros discussed the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), which specializes in housing/transit development.

Glynis discussed how the City will be purchasing property, and if we should discuss that with Vallie Brown. Kenta commented that the community should figure out - what does the community want (/what will the community fight for), and where does the community's power come from (what tools with the community fight with - legal, procedural, etc.)

The Committee will discuss further at a future meeting about what next steps to take.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING DATE

The next meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, November 12**, because the Community Meeting is on Thursday, November 14.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Karen discussed the Crystal City Pilgrimage fundraiser on Sunday, October 27 from 3pm-6pm. The location is a Victorian Mansion at 2004 Gough St (near Clay). The program will include horderves, a hosted bar, and a silent auction.

The Crystal City Pilgrimage is fundraising to provide backpacks for migrant families at \$25 each. Their goal is to fund 100 backpacks.

Ros said Phil Ting is having a fundraiser on Tuesday, October 22. It's \$250 per person. They are looking to get civil liberties folks support because Phil Ting supported redress.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., November 12, 2019 at the JAACL HQ.