



**NOTES FROM THE
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING**
1765 SUTTER STREET
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Paul Wermer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glynis Nakahara, Maia Small.

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

JAPANTOWN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Maia Small, from the Planning Department was in attendance to review the issues and items that were discussed at the October 28, 2014 meeting of the Land Use Committee regarding the Japantown Design Guidelines

Those items were shared with Maia Small from the City's Planning Department that included:

- ★ how to define the character of Japantown, focusing the mixed architecture that include the Japan Center Malls, Post Street, east from Laguna to Buchanan, Post Street west from Buchanan to Webster, the Buchanan Mall, and the "everything else;"
- ★ promote positive examples, including using photos that are more local and are representative of the neighborhood;
- ★ define "good" architecture.

It was suggested that a "walking tour" of potential sites that may be developed would be helpful in the drafting of some of the guidelines.

The Land Use Committee will reach out to Dana Buntrock at the University of California at Berkeley, in the College of Environmental Design and has a background in Japanese architecture and the significance of design for her recommendations on how new development may incorporate historic Japanese design elements in the building design.

The Land Use Committee agreed to have a working session to draft language that would define the guidelines in a "positive" light and seek photographs of what are "good" examples. These would be shared with the Planning Department staff for them to determine how to incorporate them into the guidelines so the final version could be presented to the Planning Commission for review and adoption to provide substance to the guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.