



**NOTES FROM THE
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING
1765 SUTTER STREET
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Wermer, David Ishida, Glynis Nakahara, David Ishida, Alice Kawahatsu

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Architects,

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

1805 BUCHANAN PROJECT

Representatives from the firm Federico Engels, Butler Armstead Architects for the 1805 Buchanan project shared the most recent revisions to the project. A number of concerns and recommendations were presented to the architects who took notes and indicated they would look into the possibility of incorporating most of the recommendations.

GEARY BRT

Frustrations were expressed about the session sponsored by the San Francisco County Transit Authority (SFMTA) at Grace Cathedral on November 5, 2015. There was no public testimony, people could either submit their comments in writing or orally to one of the many court reporters present. This resulted in not being able to gauge those in favor and those opposed to removing the overhead foot bridges at Webster and at Steiner.

JAPANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (NCD)

Paul announced that the Japantown designation as a Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD) would go before the Board of Supervisors November 30, 2015.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Glynis distributed drafts of the site design, architecture, and design framework. The LU Committee will review the drafts and formulate its final recommendation to the JTF Board.

Glynis indicated that the public realm area has yet to be reviewed. She will proceed to convene a meeting to discuss this final item related to the design guidelines.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DENSITY BONUS UPDATE

As there are not very many large properties in Japantown that would permit someone to take advantage of this Density Bonus to permit two additional floors but that the property would require at least 50 units, this would not have a major impact on Japantown.

NEW BUSINESS:

David Ishida reminded the LU Committee that it would be prudent to review the list of items that would be part of the request from the JTF regarding the 1481 Post Project. The list should be reviewed and vetted and include a dollar amount. This should be done sooner rather than later

so the JTF Board can adopt the list as items would be prioritized as to what and how much for each item would cost.

David also inquired as to how well is the JTF outreach to the community at large and how much information is made available.

Bob explained that there is a “master” list of over 80 individuals and organizations that he sends out major announcements, especially meeting notices, and usually includes a request for people to either submit letters and/or show up at the meeting. He added that material is shared with Tomo Hirai at the Nichi Bei Times whenever there is adequate notice provided and, if space is available, included, at a minimum, in the calendar of events, and often a brief article if space is available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting will be Tuesday for December 9, 2015 at 1765 Sutter Street.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.