

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Seiko Fujimoto, David Takashima, Jacquelyn Chew, Coco Tando, Beau Simon, Kenta Takamori, Mark Moriguchi, Rosalyn Tonai

ABSENT: Richard Hashimoto, Benh Nakajo, Alice Kawahatsu, Jon Osaki, Scott Hamaguchi

STAFF: Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Nina Bazan-Sakamoto, Brandon Quan

GUESTS: Derek Tahara, Steve Nakajima, Jeremy Chan, Elena Nielsen, Karen Kai, Daryl Higashi, Michiko Yamada, Bob Rusky, Maia Small, Trent Greenan

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

The agenda was amended to change the next board meeting to December 16 to December 18.

Note: The December meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 6pm in the JACL conference room.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of October 16, 2019.

It was moved Glynis Nakahara and seconded by David Takashima to accept the minutes from the August meeting (Attachment A.)

The motion passed unanimously. No public comments.

III. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE NAKAJO

Steve Nakajo reviewed the highlights from the November 20, 2019 Executive Director's report (Attachment B.) Steve reported that Supervisor Brown lost the D5 election by 200 votes. JTF will need to meet Dean Preston and let him know the Japantown concerns and issues. There will be another D5 election in 2020. 3-D Investment is allowing JTF to use their 4-panel window display in the West Mall, which is next to Asakichi. Michael Degregorio will collaborate to JTF, JCBD, and Japantown Cultural District on the display design.

Cultural District update:

- The Japantown Cultural District held their first Town Hall meeting on November 14. It was a big success with over 130 attendees. Mayor Breed, Supervisor Brown and monitor, Diana Ponce de Leon from Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) spoke at the meeting.
- The team is planning a Day Time Town Hall Meeting to accommodate those who could not attend the night meeting. This meeting will be targeting merchants, seniors, and the Japanese speaking community. It will be December 9 2-4pm at the Issei Memorial Hall.

2020 Census Update:

- There have been 3 events where Brandon has been able to do outreach: Aki Matsuri, Japantown Cultural District Town Hall Meeting, and Crystal City Pilgrimage.
- Miya Summers is the API Council Census Coordinator.

- Brandon attended the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) meeting for all grantees on October 6. Social media templates have been translated into Tagalog, Russian, Spanish and Chinese and targeted marketing for seniors and LGBTQ communities. There are no translations in Japanese and Korean yet. OCEIA administers and oversees the Census grant.
- JTF staff provided Japanese translation of the census flyer.

JCBD Update:

- The JCBD is working on a national PR campaign with Leah Goldstein Public Relations, Inc. (LGPR) to put Japantown on the map, and tell our story. LGPR is promoting Japanese and Japanese American culture.
- The Japantown Cultural District team will be invited to a meeting.
- JCBD is working on *Boys of Japantown: Past and Present*. This project will profile certain members of the community to highlight the stories of Japantown.

No public comments.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Land Use/Transportation Committee (Co-chairs, Glynis Nakahara/Kenta Takamori)
1. To support the Land Use/Transportation Committee's recommendation to move forward with an accelerated effort to establish Japantown Design Guidelines by December 31, 2019

Glynis Nakahara reported the LU/T committee learned that SB330 was passed in October 2019. SB330 is a state legislation to address the state's housing crisis. Guests Maia Small and Trent Greenan from the SF Planning Department explained that design guidelines are a tool for neighborhoods, the public, architects, developers, planners and the Planning Commission to guide how proposed projects connect with and visually fit within a neighborhood. Japantown's proposed Design Guidelines are intended to support Japantown's neighborhood character (Attachment C&D.) It does not affect zoning, heights, parking or uses. SB330 is in place for 5 years. Japantown's proposed Design Guidelines will work with the City's Urban Design Guidelines but will provide a more detailed guidance for projects in Japantown. The Design Guidelines are due December 11. After December 31, 2019, the SF Planning department will not approve of neighborhoods' design guidelines.

There will be 2 meetings to discuss the Japantown Design Guidelines with the community on November 21 and December 3 both at 6pm in the Union Bank Community Room, 22 Peace Plaza.

The Japantown Design Guidelines has to be approved by the JTF Board of Directors before being sent to the SF Planning Commission. The JTF Board meeting will be scheduled for December 10 6-8pm at the Japanese American Citizens' League (JAACL).

Public Comments:

- This issue of the design guidelines should have never been included as part of the housing crisis. It's disingenuous to ask the community to attend a meeting for their public process input right before and after the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Even if we don't have the Japantown Design Guidelines, don't we already have some protections with the Urban Design Guidelines?
- It's inappropriate for JTF to be taking any shortcuts as it increases our risks. It is too quick to come up with guidelines for the community without going through a process.
- The committee is dedicated to reaching out to key stake holders including property owners and doing personal outreach as well. The Design Guidelines were proposed strategies in JCHESS so they have already been approved by the community and the

city. Japantown should also be pursuing its own guidelines in the event that the legislation is not amended.

- How will you be outreaching to the community on the meetings?
- The committee made an announcement at the November 13 JCBD Board meeting.
- The Design Guidelines has notes going back to the JCHESS process in 2011 and has been going on since 2013. Having a planning guideline helps the owner, developer, and architect if a building is being built in Japantown. We need to act fast if we want something. What is Japantown? How should it look and feel? How do we keep the community able to feel it?

It was moved by Jacquelyn Chew and seconded by Ros Tonai to approve the Land Use/Transportation Committee's recommendation to move forward with an accelerated effort to establish Japantown Design Guidelines by December 31, 2019.

The vote passed with nine in favor and one opposed.

B. Peace Plaza Committee (Co-Chairs, Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

1. Peace Plaza Updates

Co-chairs, Jon Osaki and Richard Hashimoto were not able to attend the meeting. Steve Nakajima, a community representative of Phil Ginsburg's advisory group, reported the Peace Plaza Project was unanimously passed by the SF Recreation and Park Planning Commission. The project costs \$25 million and is slated for the 2020 Parks Bond. The Mayor announced that she felt a need to accelerate a Mental Health Bond from 2023 to 2020. There is uncertainty what will happen to the Parks Bond.

C. Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee (Co-chairs, David Takashima/Coco Tando)

David Takashima reported that the December 2 meeting will be cancelled and will resume in January.

D. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)

1. Presentation of Revenue and Expense Report July 2018-June 2019

Mark Moriguchi reported the Revenue and Expense Report for July 2018-June 2019 and asked for any questions (Attachment E).

E. Nominations Committee (Sandy Mori)

1. Election of 2020 Board Officers

President – Sandy Mori
Vice President – Glynis Nakahara
Secretary – Alice Kawahatsu
Treasurer – Mark Moriguchi

Sandy Mori reported that Judy Hamaguchi, Chair of the Nominations Committee, has resigned. It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by David Takashima to approve of the election of 2020 Board Officers.

The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

2. To Approve Continuing Board Members: Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, Seiko Fujimoto

It was moved by Kenta Takamori and seconded by Mark Moriguchi to approve of the continuing Board Members: Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, and Seiko Fujimoto.

The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

3. Update on filling 4 Board openings

Sandy and Benh Nakajo will meet to consider filling the 4 openings and will review the potential candidates. Interviews will be conducted and will bring recommendations to the Board hopefully by January.

Public Comments:

- Could a matrix for qualities and representation that JTF wants from the Board be shared?

V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sandy announced that Carolyn Hamaguchi, wife of late Executive Director Bob Hamaguchi, has passed away on November 17.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

NJAHS will be holding a Genealogy workshop on November 30 10-12pm in the Presidio and 7-9pm in the East Bay. A representative from Japan will research customers' kouseki. Another genealogy workshop will be held on December 7 10-12pm at NJAHS.

X. CLOSED SESSION: UPDATE ON ED EVALUATION PROCESS

XI ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, December 10, 2019 6-8pm at JAACL, 1765 Sutter Street.