

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
1675 POST ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Jacquelyn Chew, Seiko Fujimoto, Richard Hashimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, David Takashima, Rosalyn Tonai

ABSENT: Scott Hamaguchi, Beau Simon, Kenta Takamori, Jon Osaki, Alice Kawahatsu

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

GUESTS: Elena Nielsen, Lucy Fisher, Greg Vilorio, Derek Tahara, Karen Kai, Bob Rusky, Jeremy Chan, Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo, Raymond Woo,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of December 10, 2019.

It was moved Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Rosalyn Tonai to accept the minutes from the December 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 January 15, 2020 Executive Director's report (Attachment B). Steve reported that Consul General Uyama will officially leave office at the end of January. Steve has been invited to attend Consul General's reception on January 23rd. JTF contributed a farewell gift donation to Consul General Uyama. The next Consul General will arrive mid-February. He met with District 5 Supervisor Preston on Dec. 23 and offered to give him a community tour of Japantown. He gave a presentation to Mr. Motegi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan on Japantown issues. The Visitor Center Kiosk is being built by 3-D Investments and is projected to be installed in front of Café Hana in the Japan Center West Mall by April. JTF is looking to hiring a full time staff member and a volunteer coordinator to staff the kiosk. JTF is working directly with Daniel Bryon, a representative from 3-D Investments. JTF is looking for available space for events and programming for the community by visiting various organizations such as Kinmon Gakuen.

Public comments:

- In terms of Kinmon Gakuen, there is a concern on the historic nature of the building and other infrastructure. How is JTF going to preserve and improve Kimon's structure?
- How will the Visitor Center Kiosk impact Café Hana? Café Hana uses that area as primary seating area. Has 3-D Investments checked with the tenants about the possible effect?

Cultural District update:

- The Japantown Cultural District team has been reviewing the content and information from the town hall meetings. The team is projected to have an internal draft ready by the end of March and will give an internal draft presentation to the JTF Board of Directors at the March meetings.

- The Grand Launch event will be on April 11 3-5pm at JCCCNC. The team is planning what type of program and what they should produce.
- There will be an Arts and Culture key area focus group on Feb. 3 6-8pm at the JACL building. There will be more focus groups with each of the key areas.
- The team met with Julia Sabory, Cultural Districts Program Manager on January 14. The CHHES report is expected to be 15-20 pages. A supplementary report may be necessary.

No public comments.

2020 Census Update:

- Brandon reported that San Francisco is holding their official launch campaign for the Census hosted by Mayor Breed on Jan. 16 at city hall. Speaker Pelosi will give a few remarks.
- The official Census start date is April 1. The Census Bureau will start sending invitations out from March 12. The Census Bureau is primarily relying on online and phone invitations. Online and phone supports 13 languages including Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian.
- By the end of April, enumerators will start going to the people who have not answered the Census.
- April Elkjers is holding 2 job recruiting workshop at NJAHS on Jan. 16 and the week of Jan. 20. The Census is still looking to hire 1,300 people.

Public Comments:

- Is Arabic or many Mideastern languages included in one of the 13 languages?

JCBD Update:

- JCBD attended Mayor Breed’s press conference on homelessness. Homelessness is her top priority.
- JCBD created the Buchanan Mall Vision Plan with various businesses and organizations. They submitted the plan to the SF Japantown Foundation. The plan only includes the obstacles the Buchanan Mall has experienced in the past, and does not include any solutions for those obstacles.
- They held a New Year Luncheon and invited city partners from OEWD, DPW and SFPD as a thank you and a 2020 kick off.
- They are in the final 3 projects for the Safecity Camera Program: Pearl Spa, Buchanan Mall Tori Gate, and the Shabusen building. These are to be completed by the end of Feb.
- The JCBD will start moving into Phase 5, which are areas outside of the JCBD boundaries such as Kimochi Home and Soto Mission of SF – Sokoji. JCBD will approach these organizations and see who would like to participate.

No public comments.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use/Transportation Committee (Co-chairs, Glynis Nakahara/Kenta Takamori)

1. Design Guidelines

Glynis reported that the Design Guidelines were unanimously approved by the SF Planning Commission. The commissioners had very positive comments to the Design Guidelines (Attachment C.) Glynis thanked the Land Use/Transportation committee members and the community members who spoke at the hearing. The committee will meet with the Planning staff to figure out what the next steps are.

2. Bike Rack Hearing

There will be a hearing scheduled for the proposed 27 dock bikeshare station on Post near Webster St. The hearing date is Jan. 24 10am at city hall.

Glynis mentioned that SFMTA is restriping Sutter St. from Gough to Filmore. Currently, there are 2 west bound lanes and they are going to compress that to 1 lane. SFMTA will be attending the next Land Use meeting on Feb. 13. If community members have concerns, please attend that meeting.

Public comments:

- The committee acknowledged Glynis and made 3 years of effort.
- Heard back from Cathy Inamasu and Nihonmachi Little Friends were not contact on the reconfiguration of Sutter St.

B. Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee (Co-chair David Takashima/Jacquelyn Chew)

1. Update on CHSC Partnership for Cultural District Staff

Jacquelyn reported that at the last committee meeting on Jan. 6, the committee had an open ended discussion on how the committee can support Cultural District staff on the CHHESS milestones. The committee volunteered to crowd source publicity, use their networks for the arts and culture key area, and support facilitation. The committee spoke about how they can support content for the CHHESS or supplementary report.

No public comments.

C. Peace Plaza Committee

(Co-Chairs, Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

1. Updates

Richard reported that Steve Nakajima will be creating a website and will include a video Michael Degregorio prepared on the site. The website will be launched soon. Due to Steve Nakajima's involvement as a member of the Parks Bond Advisory Group, a public survey will be disseminated. The public survey allows the public to voice their support for various parks in SF and asks the public which parks are their top priority. Steve Nakajima attended advisory group meetings with Phil Ginsburg on Dec. 11 and Jan. 14. There is no new information on the Parks Bond. At the Jan. 14 meeting, members voted on 10 projects and 10 programs for the Parks Bond. The 5 projects that were identified by the committee has a top priority are Indian Basin, Peace Plaza, Buchanan Mall, Western Addition, Portsmouth Square and Gene Friend.

The next Peace Plaza Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 28 5pm at the Union Bank Community Room.

Public Comments:

- SF Rec and Park removed a stump in front of the East Mall and replaced it with a new stump in the beginning of the year. Many community members want it removed since people run into it and trip on it.
- The Cherry Blossom Committee does an internal survey on the festival.

D. Nominations Committee

(Sandy Mori/Benh Nakajo)

1. Update on 4 new Board Members

Sandy reported that there are 18 total slots on the JTF Board of Directors. 14 slots are filled and the goal is to bring 4 new members on the board. Two members are being recommended at the Jan. meeting, one in Feb. and one in March.

2. Recommendation of 2 new Board members: Lucy Fisher and Jeremy Chan

The nomination committee recommended Lucy Fisher and Jeremy Chan to the JTF Board of Directors (Attachment D.) Lucy Fisher is a member of the Tea Garden/Pagoda renovation and brings her background in fundraising to the board. Jeremy Chan is a member of JTF's Land Use/Transportation and Cultural Heritage Sustainability committees, and is the founder of Ito Yosakoi.

It was moved by David Takashima and Richard Hashimoto to approve Lucy Fisher and Jeremy Chan as a Board Member of JTF.

The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Bylaws Committee: Mark Moriguchi, David Takashima and Kenta Takamori are continuing to review the bylaws

The Bylaws Committee is continuing to meet and review the bylaws. They will schedule a meeting when everyone is available. If a board member has a recommendation for the Bylaws, email it to Mark.

2. To recommend being excused from the Attendance Policy: Jon Osaki, Seiko Fujimoto and Scott Hamaguchi

The Bylaws' attendance policy is that if a board member misses more than 50% of the meetings in one year, the board asks that person to step down as a board member. The Executive Committee is recommending to excuse each of these individuals due to their personal reasons as to why they could not attend the board meetings.

It was moved by David Takashima and seconded by Benh Nakajo to excuse Jon Osaki, Seiko Fujimoto and Scott Hamaguchi from the Attendance Policy.
The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

3. Recommendation to set up an Ad Hoc Committee on the Japan Center Malls
The 3-D Covenants will expire in 2021. Joaquin Torres, the Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development will refer a Planning Department staff to work with JTF on this issue. Since the Japan Center Malls is a Land Use issue, the Ad Hoc committee should have join collaboration and coordination with the Land Use/Transportation committee.

Public comments:

- This is a Land Use issue. There should be strong Land Use participation at the meetings, and have the meetings open to the public.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by David Takashima to set up an Ad Hoc Committee on the Japan Center Malls.
The vote passed unanimously.

Sandy added that JTF was awarded a grant of \$30,000 from the SF Japantown Foundation.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

- The Japanese YWCA located at 1830 Sutter Street was added to the National Registry of Historic Places on Jan. 10. The building was built for the Issei (first generation) Japanese American women when the Alien Land Laws forbid them from purchasing the property.
- The Peace Plaza is lit up in red and gold colors for the 49ers.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 6-8pm at the Union Bank Community Room.