

LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, FEB 10, 2022@ 6:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING

I. WELCOME

Co-Chairs Glynis Nakahara and Jeremy Lee welcomed everyone.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alice Kawahatsu moved, Rosalyn Tonai seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed without objection.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Hamaguchi moved, Rosalyn Tonai seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed without objection.

IV. STAFF / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Cultural District/CHHESS

Susie Kagami reported that the SOMA Filiipinas and their CHHESS plan was supposed to go before the Board of Supervisors in January, followed by the Japantown Cultural District CHHESS.

Rosalyn warned about a compressed timeframe for reviewing the document. She stated that the City must give the community enough time to review the document and go back and forth with the City. Susie stated that Julia Sabory of the Office of Housing & Community Development who is on medical leave still has to write sections of the report. It is Susie's intent to alert the committee as soon as there is a complete draft to review.

B. Ad Hoc Japan Center Malls

Glynis reported that Lori Yamauchi, chair of the Ad-Hoc Technical Committee on the Japan Center Malls, conducted a comparison of the Better Neighborhood Plan and the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHESS). A key difference is height limitations.

C. Peace Plaza

Richard Hashimoto reported that he was unable to attend the meeting, but he understood that the Recreation and Parks Department have been working on the design. Emily Murase summarized the meeting discussion which focused on changes to the original design.

Linda Walsh asked if the community meeting originally scheduled for the spring was still in the works. Emily Murase responded that Recreation and Parks Department staff has stated that there won't be enough information to report until the summer.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/UPDATES

A. Housing Element Update, Draft 2

Shelley Caltagirone and Lauren Hiller of the Planning Department attended the meeting. Shelley gave a brief presentation about the Housing Element. She stated that the draft is in Phase II and would like to have wide distribution of this draft. She explained that, for the first time, the Housing Element includes an equity analysis.

Links to Shelley's presentation.

1. Housing Element - PDF:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16mD29GTaN6gxvM3EzYKFVeoqH8APH7o7/view?usp=sharing>

2. Housing Element - 2022 Update Phase 2 Summary

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBmVQGIKvxBMv7w_oPKKN15s1mhkr1Ot/view

Housing Element Website and Draft 2: <https://sfhousingelement.org/second-draft-plan>

Discussion

1. Daryl Higashi stated that he formerly served as Deputy, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing so is familiar with these issues. He expressed a concern that only a small fraction of goals will be realized. He wanted to see a win-win situation whereby key stakeholders are aligned to achieve these goals. Shelley responded that the document is very aspirational. The Planning Department develops plans and serves in a regulatory role, but is not an implementation agency. That would be the Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development. There are ongoing discussions with MOECD.

Daryl asked whether the current plan has been calibrated against housing density requirements? Do models show that San Francisco will fall short of housing density goals? Shelley responded that over the next 30 years, the Planning Department expects 150,000 new units. Already half of these are in the pipeline, focused on the southeast section of the City. The other half will be focused on the northern and western sections of the City and can be implemented without radical changes in height restrictions. The environmental review of the Housing Element is scheduled for April.

2. Alice Kawahatsu thanked Shelley for her presentation. She expressed concern that those who were impacted by Redevelopment are no longer alive. Shelley responded that the Housing Element calls for a report to gather data on Certificates of Preference holders and their descendants,
3. Glynis asked staff to disseminate the Planning Department information. She called for volunteers to review the Housing Element draft. Rosalyn Tonai and Daryl Higashi responded positively. The Planning Department would like to get feedback by the end of February. There was a strong feeling that the timeline does not allow for sufficient community input. Glynis asked Rosalyn and Daryl to identify key provisions in the draft plan.
4. Emily stated that when staff members distribute the draft Housing Element, staff could attach a Google form to gather feedback.

B. Formula Retail Proposal*

The committee voted by a close margin to recommend to the board the JTF *not* support the Formula Retail Proposal that contains a carve out for Japantown. Glynis recommended that the committee revisit the issue and seek additional input from the merchants, the JCBD, the Japantown Merchants Association, etc. Glynis will reach out to these organizations.

C. Osaka Way Improvements

Glynis reported that the Department of Public Works is putting together a grant to secure the \$5 million in available state funding. There is discussion about hiring a private designer in the early stages of the project. Meetings with the Asawa Family are planned.

D. Japantown Preservation + Development Plan

Lori Yamauchi was not available to report on this item.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pride Flag Pole at Peace Plaza*

Elena Nielsen, a former JTF staff and board member who now works at The Center, stated that she was representing the JACL San Francisco Chapter. She has formed the “Japantown Rainbow Coalition” in partnership with the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, Omusubi, and the JACL Berkeley Chapter to pursue the raising of the Pride flag over the Peace Plaza. The flag-raising is sponsored by the JACL San Francisco Chapter and implemented by the Japantown Rainbow Coalition. She explained that she is targeting the last week of May, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, to raise the flag that would fly over the Peace Plaza through the month of June which has been designated Pride Month. This week is known as QTAPI to honor the Queer, Transgender Asian Pacific Islanders. The Coalition has already secured the unanimous support of the Japanese American Religious Federation. Elena requested support from the committee and the JTF board. She directed people to the endorsement website: bit.ly/joinjtownsrainbow. Questions can be directed to sfjacl@yahoo.com

Discussion

Scott Hamauchi expressed strong support for the initiative.

Steven Santa Maria moved, Glynis seconded a motion to recommend to the JTF full board strong support for the raising of the Progress flag over the Peace Plaza. The motion passed without abstentions or objections.

If the full board takes a position in support of the flag-raising, Elena requested a letter of support to the Recreation and Parks Department. Emily confirmed that once the full board takes a position in support of the initiative, staff will send a letter of support.

B. SF Redistricting*

Susie Kagami presented on the work of San Francisco Rising to organize communities around the redistricting process. Community Redistricting Information Packet [here](#). Slide Presentation [here](#).

Discussion

1. Emily thanked Susie for building relationships with other cultural districts and staying on top of this issue. Emily stated that it was very important that Japantown had a well-defined map to present to the Redistricting Committee. Emily acknowledged the tremendous work of the community on developing a Japantown map as part of the JCHESS report.
2. Rosalyn asked about the size of District 5.
3. Susie shared that the D5 planning group was meeting tomorrow, Friday, 2/11, and invited interested folks to attend.
4. Jeremy stated that there are disagreements on where the inner Sunset that is currently in D5 should go. Some advocated for this area to be moved to D4.

Jeremy moved, Rosalyn seconded a motion to recommend for the board to endorse (1) Japantown remain in D5 (as defined by the JCHESS boundaries), and (2) Japantown be in the same district as Western Addition / Fillmore. The motion was adopted without abstentions or objections.

C. 200 Rhode Island/Takahashi Building Landmark Designation*

Glynis reported that Steve Nakajo had already submitted a letter of support. The designation will be considered at the Historic Preservation Commission on Wednesday, February 16 at the Historic Preservation Commission.

D. 2022 Goals

Glynis and Jeremy will be speaking with committee members about developing goals. They are also recruiting new committee members.

VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily announced that, this past Tuesday, Supervisor Dean Preston and Supervisor Connie Chan introduced a resolution acknowledging the harm the Japanese American community suffered at the hands of historical City policies. Since it is a resolution, not legislation, it will be up for a final vote of the board next week, on Tuesday, February 15. Paul Osaki and Diane Matsuda are seeking volunteers who are willing to provide public comment.

Rosalyn announced that the Day of Remembrance is scheduled for this Saturday, February 19, 5 pm. The virtual event is free, but registration is required. RSVP [here](#).

Jeremy announced the Interfaith Vigil: Remembrance and Solidarity on Saturday, February 12, 11 am-12:15 pm, where he will be performing with the Yosakoi Dance Troupe. RSVP [here](#).

Alice and Emily met SF Police Department Captain Derrick Walker who has just been appointed to lead the SFPD Northern Station on a Japantown walk-through organized by Richard Hashimoto earlier today, February 10.

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

* Indicates potential recommendation to JTF Board of Directors

** Members of the public may address the Board for up to two minutes with respect to each item on the agenda, and may speak for up to two minutes regarding matters not on the agenda during general public comment.