

**Japantown Task Force
Board of Directors Meeting**
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:00 pm – VIA zoom Meeting

Attendees: Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Benh Nakajo, Alice Kawahatsu, Beau Simon, Daryl Higashi, Jeremy Chan, Lucy Fisher, Mark Moriguchi, Richard Hashimoto, Rosalyn Tonai, and Elena Nielsen

Absent (excused): Kenta Takamori, Scott Hamaguchi, Jon Osaki, Seiko Fujimoto and David Takashima

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

Guests: Emily Glick, Michiko Yamada, Grace Horikiri, Greg Vilorio, Judi Nihei, Karen Kai, Lori Yamauchi, Masahiro Inoue, and Nancy Nagano

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of July 15, 2020.

It was moved by Lucy Fisher and seconded by Mark Moriguchi to accept the minutes from the July meeting (Attachment A).

The motion passed unanimously. No public comments.

III. Update from the Executive Director, Steve Nakajo (Attachment B)

No public comments

Update from the Japantown Cultural District, Nina Bazan-Sakamoto (Attachment C)

No public comments.

Update from the 2020 Census Project, Brandon Quan (Attachment D)

The Census Bureau requested to extend the 2020 Census until October 31. The White House decided not to approve the extension. The 2020 Census will end on September 30. We only have one month of Door to Door census taking.

No public comments.

Update from Executive Director of Japantown Community Benefit District (Property Owners in Japantown), Grace Horikiri (Attachment E)

No public comments.

IV. Committee Reports

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

1. Committee Updates

Glynis Nakahara reported that SFMTA reached out to the committee about congestion pricing. SFMTA is looking in charging cars to go downtown. SFMTA is working with the committee to schedule a community meeting targeted for Thursday, September 24. SFMTA plans to install a new crosswalk medium mid-way on Geary St. between Webster St. and Laguna St. The new crosswalk is part of the Geary Rapid Project. As part of the medium design, panels have been

designed to represent Japantown, Filmore, and St Francis Square. Thank you to Karen Kai and Kaz Naganuma Designs for moving this along.

B. Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee (Chair David Takashima)

1. Recommendation to have Rosalyn Tonai become a member of the CHS Committee

The CHS Committee made a recommendation to have Rosalyn Tonai become a member of the CHS Committee (Attachment F).

It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Richard Hashimoto to approve Rosalyn Tonai to be added to the Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee.

The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

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

1. Information on Proposition A, the \$487.5 million Health and Homeless, Parks and Streets Bond for the November 3rd ballot

Richard Hashimoto reported that the Department of Elections has issued a new title for the bond to be Proposition A the Health and Homeless, Parks and Streets Bond for the November 3, 2020 ballot. Japantown will be part of a citywide campaign to making sure that Prop A passes. Japantown put together a ballot argument in support of this bond with 11 signatures from the community. The 11 community members who signed must be SF residents and registered voters. The statement will be in the ballot handbook. According to the submittals from the Department of Elections, there is .014 cents for every \$100 that will be taxed to the property owners. There are some opponents of the Prop A bond. One of the opponents is Quentin Kopp who stated it is absurd to approve this bond and increase property taxes. JTF President Sandy Mori mentioned that new bonds are not supposed to raise taxes. She will go to Capital Bonds committee to get clarity on this.

D. Finance Committee (Chair Mark Moriguchi)

1. Recommendation to include Daryl Higashi as a member of the Finance Committee

Mark Moriguchi made a recommendation to have Daryl Higashi become a member of the Finance Committee. Daryl has a background in real estate, finance and development. He has previous experience working at Bank of America, other nonprofits and at the City and County of San Francisco's Housing and Finance agency on budgets, cash flow, reviewing grant applications and expenses for nonprofits.

It was moved by Benh Nakajo and seconded by Richard Hashimoto to approve Daryl Higashi to be added to the Finance Committee.

The motion passed with 10 in favor and 1 abstention. No public comments.

E. Nominations Committee

1. Recommendation to include Richard Hashimoto as a member and the Chair of the Nominations Committee till the end of 2020

Benh Nakajo made a recommendation to include Richard Hashimoto as a member and the Chair of the Nominations Committee till the end of 2020. Richard has been involved in Japantown since 1960 and has been at the Japantown Garage since 1977. His family has been through redevelopment and has a long deep-rooted history in Japantown. He also oversees the Japantown Garage's Nominations Committee.

It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Alice Kawahatsu to approve Richard Hashimoto as a member and the Chair of the Nominations Committee till the end of 2020.

The vote passed unanimously. No public comments.

V. Discussion of the Cultural, History, Housing, Economic Sustainability Strategy (CHHESS) Report for the Japantown Cultural District to be submitted to MOHCD

No action was taken at this board meeting.

Steve Nakajo announced that it has been one year since the Japantown Cultural District started on August 1, 2019. Judi Nihei has joined to help edit the CHHES report. He reviewed his timelines and notices for the town hall and focus groups (Attachment G, H, I, and J). The JCD team projects to have completed the Final CHHES draft by October.

Nina Bazan-Sakamoto gave a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment K) on the CHHES timeline and had a discussion with board members for further feedback. ED Steve Nakajo will send out this powerpoint to all board members via email following the presentation by Nina. The CHHES report is both a strategy implementation roadmap for the community and an advocacy tool to the City and its purpose is to be used by the whole Japantown community. There are 2 versions of the CHHES report: Supplemental and Final CHHES draft reports. The Final CHHES report will be submitted to MOHCD. The Supplemental is not required for submittal to the City. Information from the Supplemental report was pulled out and distilled into the Final CHHES draft. The updated CHHES draft with incorporated input will be available on September 11. The Final CHHES draft will be up for approval by the JTF Board of Directors at the September 16 monthly board meeting. The Final CHHES draft will be submitted to MOHCD for feedback in September and the team will receive MOHCD's input in October. Nina had elevated questions for feedback in her PowerPoint and board members gave their comments and feedback to the JCD staff and to volunteer Lori Yamauchi. Board members thanked Lori Yamauchi for attending the Land Use/ Transportation and Cultural Heritage and Sustainability meetings which covered discussions on the CHHES draft.

Some of their comments include:

- The Regenerative, Sustainable, Resilient Future concept is part of the vision, not one of the 6 key areas. It should be part of the overarching theme and apply this concept to the 6 key areas.
- The COVID-19 pandemic is a bigger concern related to a more technical definition of resiliency such as how to plan and prepare the community for natural disasters and pandemics in the future.
- There was a comment on how to preserve and sustain Japantown businesses after COVID-19. The commercial retail world is evolving due to the pandemic.
- COVID-19 and its impact needs to be identified as long-term issues of the community. It can't be ignored but also not the whole purpose of the report.
- The Visitor Kiosk, Arts Action Committee and the Japantown Community Council tactics require further discussion, research and vetting from the community.
- The term "Community Council" might be intimidating for some community members. It should be an open invitation for participation from a wide diverse group within our community. More exploration on the objectives of the Community Council need to be outlined in order to make it work. By Laws could possibly be adjusted to invite more people to the table.
- We need to be smart and whatever money we get from CC. If 50% of the stores are not there, will a new kiosk be helpful?

VI. Update from the president and executive committee

1. Update on the Ad Hoc Japan Center Malls Technical Committee held on August 10, 2020
Sandy Mori reported that it was an informal conversation between Daniel Bryon, committee members and the public. The next meeting's guest is Oliver Mar, the property owner of the Pa'ina building. Next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 4:30 pm (Every 2nd Monday of the month)

VII. Announcements

No announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 via zoom meeting.