

**JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019  
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM  
1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

**ATTENDEES:** Sandy Mori, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Coco Tando, Scott Hamaguchi, Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, Richard Hashimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Alice Kawahatsu

**ABSENT:** Seiko Fujimoto, Neal Taniguchi, Jon Osaki, Jacquelyn Chew, David Takashima, Kenta Takamori

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

**GUESTS:** Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo, Jeremy Chan, Tomo Hirai, Karen Kai

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of August 21, 2019.

The minutes were amended:

- Under A Report back on the August 7<sup>th</sup> SF Rec & Park Capital Committee Meeting & August 15<sup>th</sup> Full Rec & Park Commission Meeting in the Peace Plaza items, Richard Hashimoto pointed out that he was not present at the Phil Ginsburg meeting. Jon Osaki, Steve Nakajo and Steve Nakajima met with Phil Ginsburg.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Glynis Nakahara 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 September 18, 2019 Executive Director's report (Attachment B.) Steve announced that Max Loubet has started his 2<sup>nd</sup> year internship with JTF and will be assigned various tasks such as festivals, Legacy Business Program, and working on our JTF website. There will be a Peace Plaza Executive Committee Meeting on October 3. Nina Bazan-Sakamoto has been representing JTF at various conferences i.e. Western Arts Alliance Conference in Los Angeles with Mark Izu on August 26-29, Copani Conference on September 21 at the Filmore Conference Center, and San Jose Japantown Conference on September 23. Land Use/Transportation Co-chair Glynis, Cultural Heritage Sustainability Co-chair Coco Tando, and JTF staff concluded a meeting going over the 6 Cultural District objectives on September 18 right before the Board meeting was held. Steve acknowledged Tomo Hirai for her work and wished her well at her new job. Brandon Quan started working with Grace Horikiri at the JCBD.

Nina Bazan-Sakamoto gave a Cultural District update:

- The Cultural District team has been having white paper discussion meetings every Monday going through each of the 6 initiatives.

- The team met with Julia Sabory, the Cultural District Program Manager, who presented a CHHESS report framework.
- They are partnering with 3-D Investment for Aki Matsuri. Aki Matsuri will be the mini launch held on October 19. There will be a Cultural District informational booth, food demonstrations, entertainment and Nina will be the co-MC.
- The town hall community meeting will be held on November 14 at the Union Bank Community Room 6-8pm.
- They are projecting to have a grand launch during the Cherry Blossom Festival and then after that there will be another town hall meeting.

Brandon Quan gave a 2020 Census Update:

- Brandon is working on his Press Release for the 2020 Census, which will be included in the JTF newsletter and sent to the Board of Directors.
- He is working with the Census Bureau to get materials.
- JTF Intern Max is working on a JTF Census flyer with JTF's logo in the center. There will be flyers in English and Japanese.
- He is attending meetings with Steve Ishii to set up a table at Kimochi Nutrition and will accompany the home delivery employees.
- He reached out to the SF Public Library who will provide services for Census Outreach.
- There will be an informational table at the Osaka Matsuri September 28 and Aki Matsuri October 19.

Brandon Quan gave a JCBD Update:

- JCBD had the Big Belly Installation on August 27. Supervisor Brown and Richard Hashimoto spoke at the event. The Block by Block Ambassadors reported that there has been less trash in Japantown.

Public Comments:

- For the Cultural District, the discussions with the community should be open ended. There should be follow up meetings on specific topics for the community to work together and come up with innovative strategies. The Land Use/Transportation committee co-chairs should schedule a specific Cultural District meeting with the Cultural Heritage Sustainability committee co-chairs and Cultural District team.
- Reach out to the Rosa Parks Elementary School as one of the Census resources. They have many Spanish-speaking, Arabic-speaking and Japanese-speaking families.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

1. Update on JCHESS Breakdown

Coco Tando reported that the committee has been breaking down the JCHESS Report to see which strategies can fit into the CHHESS Report. The JCHESS doesn't have many strategies in Tenant Protections and Arts & Culture. The breakdown was shared with the committee and they decided to share it with the Land Use/Transportation committee. They are getting closer to finalizing the breakdown.

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

Glynis Nakahara reported that there were no updates at this time. Richard Hashimoto shared that the Geary BRT construction has started on the south side of Geary (Attachment C.) They will stop construction during the holiday season. It will have a big impact on Japantown.

### C. Peace Plaza Committee

(Co-chairs, Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

#### 1. Peace Plaza Updates

The Peace Plaza Committee held their monthly meeting on August 27. A timeline created by Steve Nakajima was disseminated (Attachment D.) The Bond process will begin in October. Japantown needs to participate in the 2020 Parks Bond process. The next Peace Plaza meeting on September 24 will be cancelled.

### D. Nominations Committee

(Chair, Judy Hamaguchi)

#### 1. Updates from Nominations Committee

Judy Hamaguchi reported that the committee met on September 9 to discuss the list of Board members terming out in 2019. The 4 Board members terming out agreed to serve an additional 3 years are Rosalyn Tonai, Beau Simon, Seiko Fujimoto and Judy Hamaguchi. The committee decided not to recruit new Board members as they felt JTF is at a good number of members. There will be an annual JTF meeting in October. The 4 Board members will be voted in at the November Board meeting and start their new term in January. The Nominations for Officers is coming up and current officers are Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Judy Hamaguchi, and Mark Moriguchi. Please email your nominations to Judy and the nominations will be added to the slate for a November vote.

### V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sandy reported that she received a Letter of Resignation from Clint Taura and shared his email with the Board.

### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

### VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

Alice Kawahatsu announced that we will have the Visitor Center Kiosk at the Osaka Matsuri on September 28 and asked if any Board members would be able to volunteer.

Sandy Mori announced that there will be a D5 Candidates Forum on October 10 at JCCCNC 6-8pm. It is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association, and JTF. The League of Women Voters is paying for the JCCCNC space.

Richard Hashimoto shared that Kinmon Gakuen will go before the Board of Supervisors Land use Committee for the Historic Preservation Landmark Designation on October 30 1:30pm at City Hall.

Richard Hashimoto mentioned the Maxine Hall Health Center will have a Groundbreaking Ceremony on October 2, 1-2:30pm at the Maxine Hall Health Center on 1301 Pierce Street, SF. Mayor Breed and Supervisor Brown will be attending.

Karen Kai shared the Historic Preservation Commission will be hearing the recommendations from the State Office of Historic Preservation on the National Register Application for 1830 Sutter Street on October 2 12:30-4:30. The State Office of Nominations will be hearing on October 7 in

San Bernardino. If the State approves the Nomination, it will go to the National Parks Service and will get the National Register Status. If any organization would like to send a Letter of Support, please send it to Cathy Inamasu at Nihonmachi Little Friends by September 30.

Judy Hamaguchi announced that JACL will be having their annual Health Fair on October 19; there will be free flu shots for the community.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 Annual Meeting 6-8pm at Union Bank Community Room.

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